



## PRO-RUSSIA REBELS IN UKRAINE FACING ANGER OF CITIZENS

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## KLM'S GREEN ARUBA CHALLENGE SOLVED WITH LAND LIFE BOX

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# Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: +297 582-7800 Wednesday, May 21, 2014



## US Voters Pick Candidates in Critical States

Poll workers and early morning voters begin their day a little after 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at the Rabbit Hash General Store in Rabbit Hash, Ky. Kentucky voters headed to the polls for a primary election headlined by a hotly contested U.S. Senate race. Top Senate Republican, Mitch McConnell, defeated his tea party challenger in Kentucky.

(AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley)

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Voters were picking Senate candidates Tuesday in states seen as pivotal to Republican hopes for capturing the U.S. Senate in November. Among the early winners was the Senate's top Republican, Mitch McConnell, who easily beat back

a challenger linked to the small-government tea party movement. Six states were holding primaries Tuesday, the busiest day so far this year on the U.S. political calendar. The most closely watched was in Georgia, where seven Republicans were engaged in an expensive

fight for their party's Senate nomination. The southern state is one of the few where Democrats have hopes of winning a Senate seat now held by Republicans. Republicans have many more prospects for picking off Democratic seats, including in Arkansas, a

conservative southern state where incumbent Mark Pryor faces a tough re-election challenge from Republican congressman Tom Cotton. Both were running unopposed for their parties' nominations Tuesday. If Republicans capture the Senate, President Barack

Obama likely would have to deal with a Congress entirely in opposition hands for his final two years in office. Republicans are expected to keep control of the House of Representatives.

Continued on page 4



# Nigeria car bombs kill at least 118

**AHMED SAKA**  
**MICHELLE FAUL**  
**Associated Press**

**JOS, Nigeria (AP)** — Two car bombs exploded at a bustling bus terminal and market in Nigeria's central city of Jos on Tuesday, killing at least 118 people, wounding dozens and leaving bloodied bodies amid the flaming debris. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the twin car bombs. But they bore the hallmarks of Boko Haram, the Islamic extremist group that abduct-

ing other bodies. In the middle of the flames, an arm reached up. Another woman, unconscious and wrapped in a brightly colored cloth, was being carried away in a wheelbarrow on a road strewn with glass shards. Dozens of bodies and body parts were covered in grain that had been loaded in the second car bomb, witnesses said. A Terminus Market official said he helped remove 50 casualties, most of them dead. He spoke on condition of anonymity be-

Muslims in Jos, the capital of Plateau state in Nigeria's Middle Belt region that divides the country into the predominantly Muslim north and Christian south. It is a flashpoint for religious violence, and there were fears the attacks could ignite a new round of sectarian violence. President Goodluck Jonathan indicated he blamed Boko Haram for Tuesday's bombings, extending sympathies to affected families in a statement and assuring "all Nigerians that the gov-



**Smoke rises after a bomb blast at a bus terminal in Jos, Nigeria, Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Two explosions ripped through a bustling bus terminal and market frequented by thousands of people in Nigeria's central city of Jos on Tuesday afternoon, and police said there are an unknown number of casualties. The blasts could be heard miles away and clouds of black smoke rose above the city as firefighters and rescue workers struggled to reach the area as thousands of people fled.**  
(AP Photo/Stefanos Foundation)

ed nearly 300 schoolgirls last month and has repeatedly targeted bus stations and other locations where large numbers of people gather in its campaign to impose Islamic law on Nigeria. The second blast came half an hour after the first, killing some of the rescue workers who had rushed to the scene, which was obscured by billows of black smoke. "It's horrifying, terrible," said Mark Lipdo of the Stefanos Foundation, a Christian charity based in Jos, who described the sickening smell of burning human flesh. A woman's body, her legs blown off, lay on the edge of an inferno consum-

cause he is not allowed to give information to reporters. At least 118 people were killed and dozens wounded in the bombings, which ignited fires that were still burning eight hours later, according to Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency. "Firemen are still trying to put them out. We believe we will find more bodies," Mohammed Abdulsalam, zonal coordinator for the agency, told The Associated Press. He said the fires were being fueled by flammable goods at the market, including rubber sandals. Tensions have been rising between Christians and

ernment remains fully committed to winning the war against terror." "This administration will not be cowed by the atrocities of enemies of human progress and civilization," the statement said. Boko Haram has claimed other recent attacks, including two separate bomb blasts in April that killed more than 120 people and wounded more than 200 in Abuja, the nation's capital. One went off at Abuja's busy bus station and the other nearby. A suicide car bomber killed 25 people on Monday in northern Kano city, where police found and disabled a second car bomb before it went off. □

## AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

### Former Curacao PM held for questioning

**WILLEMSTAD, Curacao (AP)** — A former prime minister of Curacao has been detained on the island for questioning in a money-laundering investigation. The Public Prosecutor announced that Gerrit Schotte was arrested Tuesday and said authorities will hold him for an initial 48-hour period of questioning. His longtime girlfriend also was arrested. A statement issued by the Public Prosecutor did not provide details about the allegations but said both Schotte and his girlfriend were suspected of forgery and money laundering. Investigators searched Schotte's home in December and seized a computer and documents. Schotte is leader of the Movement for the Future of Curacao political party. Schotte left the prime ministerial post after less than two years in the job when his coalition lost its majority on the Island Council in August 2012. □

### 24 busted in Puerto Rico airport drug ring

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Federal authorities in Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland said Tuesday that they broke up a drug-smuggling ring that shipped cocaine in children's toys on flights to the United States. The organization seemed to have particularly favored the toy "Lite Brite," because it was easy to open and could fit a kilogram of cocaine, U.S. Attorney Emilia Rodriguez Velez for the District of Puerto Rico said at a news conference. Couriers working for the organization also used DVD players as they moved cocaine between Puerto Rico and the mainland for about four years starting in 2009, Rodriguez said. Authorities arrested 24 alleged members of the organization in the United States and Puerto Rico who were indicted on drug charges. The cocaine was shipped to several cities, primarily Orlando, Florida, officials said. □

### Bahamas court won't halt Bimini dredging

**NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)** — A court in the Bahamas rejected an effort early Tuesday to halt a dredging project off Bimini that is part of a major new resort development in the small cluster of islands near Florida. In a 2-1 decision, the Court of Appeal declined a petition by the Bimini Blue Coalition to stop a project that it claims lacks the proper permits and is damaging sensitive underwater habitat. Resorts World Bimini, a unit of Malaysia-based Genting Group, is dredging off North Bimini to build a terminal for its Miami-based cruise ship as part of a larger development that includes a 350-room hotel scheduled to open later this year. A company spokeswoman, Heather Krasnow, said Resorts World has the required permits and is attempting to minimize environmental damage by, among other things, relocating coral from the dredging area to an artificial reef nearby. □

### Church hopes for leads in slain missionary

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)** — Members of a church in Haiti have said that an American missionary slain in his home last week was well liked and have renewed calls on police to find his killer. George Knoop, 77, was stabbed multiple times last week Tuesday in the Delmas section of Haiti's capital. The missionary from Chicago was alone at the time and apparently knew his assailant, according to friends and police. Detectives have taken two statements, but no arrests have been made in the case and the motive for Knoop's murder is still not known, said John Munsell, chairman of the board for the Quisqueya Chapel in Haiti where Knoop worked. □



## AP sources: Justice Dept to reveal secret drone memo

**NEDRA PICKLER**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — On the eve of a critical Senate vote and under court order, the Obama administration signaled it will publicly reveal a secret memo describing its legal justification for using drones to kill U.S. citizens suspected of terrorism overseas.

Two administration officials told The Associated Press that the Justice Department has decided not to appeal a Court of Appeals ruling requiring disclosure of an edited version of the memo under the Freedom of Information Act. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

The decision to release the documents comes as the Senate is to vote Thursday on advancing President Barack Obama's nomination of the memo's author, Harvard professor and former Justice Department official David Barron, to sit on the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston. Sen. Rand Paul, a Republican, had vowed to fight Barron's confirmation, and some Democratic senators were calling for the memo's public release before a final vote.

Wednesday's expected vote would allow the Senate to move ahead with a final vote on Barron on Thursday. "I think we'll be OK," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, said earlier Tuesday.

Anwar al-Awlaki, an al-Qaida leader born in the United States, was killed after being targeted by a drone strike in Yemen in September 2011. Some legal scholars and human rights activists complained that it was illegal for the U.S. to kill American citizens away from the battlefield without a trial.

Some senators, including those in Obama's own party, have called for the public release of the memo before the final confirmation vote. The White House agreed under the pressure to show senators unedited copies of all written legal advice written by Barron regarding the potential use of lethal force against U.S. citizens in counterterrorism operations.

Until now, the administration has fought in court to keep the writings from public view. But administration officials said that Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. decided this week not to appeal an April 21 ruling requiring disclosure by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York and that Attorney General Eric Holder concurred with his opinion.

The release could take some time, since the redactions — blacked out parts — are subject to court approval. And the administration also is insisting that a classified ruling on the case also be redacted to protect information classified for national security, but not the legal reasoning, one of the officials said.

The American Civil Liberties Union and two reporters for The New York Times, Charlie Savage and Scott Shane, filed a FOIA suit. In January 2013, U.S. District Court Judge Colleen McMahon ruled that she had no authority to order the documents disclosed, although she chided the Obama administration for refusing to release them.

But a three-judge appeals court panel noted that after McMahon ruled, senior government officials spoke about the subject. The panel rejected the government's claim that the court could not consider official disclosures made after McMahon's ruling, including a 16-page Justice Department white paper on the subject and public comments by Obama in May in which he acknowledged his role in the al-Awlaki killing, saying he had "authorized the strike that took him out." □



President Barack Obama meets with business leaders about creating and investing in jobs in the U.S. Tuesday, May 20, 2014, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. From left are: Carsten Spohr, Chairman and CEO, Deutsche Lufthansa AG; Ravila Gupta, President, Umicore USA; the president; Joe Hinrichs, Executive Vice President and President of the Americas, Ford Motor Company; Sanjay K. Jha, CEO, Globalfoundries; Michael Penner, President, Richelieu.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

## Obama hosts execs investing in US

**JIM KUHNHENN**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama played the role of business pitchman Tuesday, saluting executives whose companies have chosen to gain or expand their footprint in the United States.

Obama, at the White House, welcomed leaders of 11 foreign and U.S.-based firms that have opened new plants in the United States or brought back overseas operations. Obama cited low energy costs, a productive workforce and a "dynamic economy" as major U.S. attractions for corporate investment.

"We want folks to know

this is a great place to do business," he told the executives, including Ericsson North America chief executive Angel Ruiz and Lufthansa chairman and chief executive Carsten Spohr.

The roundtable discussion by the executives and top White House officials was part of a week devoted to promoting foreign investments in the United States. Obama is showcasing the effect of an improving economy on job growth during a congressional election year that finds the public still anxious about employment and financial wellbeing.

"The rest of the world is seeing the benefits of 'Made in America,' and for good

reason," said Jeff Zients, a top Obama adviser and director of the National Economic Council. "Our competitive advantage is very clear."

Obama's attention to the influx of foreign business coincided with new concern in Congress with a trend of U.S. companies seeking to set up overseas headquarters in part to avoid U.S. tax rates.

A group of 14 senators on Tuesday introduced legislation that would set a two-year moratorium on the ability of corporations to acquire offshore companies in order to shift their addresses to low-tax foreign countries. □

## Missouri:

## Federal court halts inmate's execution

**JIM SALTER**  
Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — A federal appeals court panel granted a temporary halt to the execution of a death-row inmate on Tuesday evening, hours before he was scheduled to die for killing a man in 1996, citing concerns that he could suffer during lethal injection due to a rare medical condition. Cheryl Pilate, an attorney for inmate Russell Bucklew,

said she was "relieved" by the ruling, though it doesn't necessarily mean the execution is off. The panel's ruling could be overturned by the full appeals court, or by the U.S. Supreme Court. "Bucklew's un rebutted medical evidence demonstrates the requisite sufficient likelihood of unnecessary pain and suffering beyond the constitutionally permissible amount inherent in all executions," the

ruling from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals read. It wasn't immediately clear if the state would appeal. Messages left with the Missouri Attorney General's office were not immediately returned.

In a dissenting opinion, appeals court Judge James Loken said Bucklew's medical evidence "simply does not satisfy the Supreme Court's rigorous standards" for a stay of execution. □



# US voters pick candidates in critical states

Continued from front

Republicans must gain six seats to take control of the Senate. About a third of the 100 seats will be on the ballot. Democrats have been hurt by the retirement of some of their longtime senators in states that lean Republican. Also, some Democratic senators swept into office when Obama was first elected in 2008 are now vulnerable as they seek re-election. Democrats are contending with Obama's low popularity and a history of a president's party generally losing seats in midterm elections. Republicans are making Obama and his troubled health care overhaul the focus of their campaigns. The primaries are critical for Republicans, who saw an opportunity to win the Senate slip away in 2010 after party voters repeatedly picked candidates backed by the tea party movement. Many were too conservative or unsteady to win in the gen-

eral election.

This time, Republican Party leaders are determined to fend off tea party challenges. McConnell's strong showing in Kentucky was noteworthy because that's where the tea party made its mark four years ago by sweeping Rand Paul into the Senate over an establishment candidate favored by McConnell.

McConnell hired a top aide to Paul as his own campaign manager. Meanwhile his rival, businessman Matt Bevin, stumbled through a campaign that included an appearance at a rally of cock-fighting supporters.

Alison Lundergan Grimes, a top state official, defeated three rivals in her bid to oppose McConnell in a southern state in which Democrats have a shot at unseating a Republican U.S. senator.

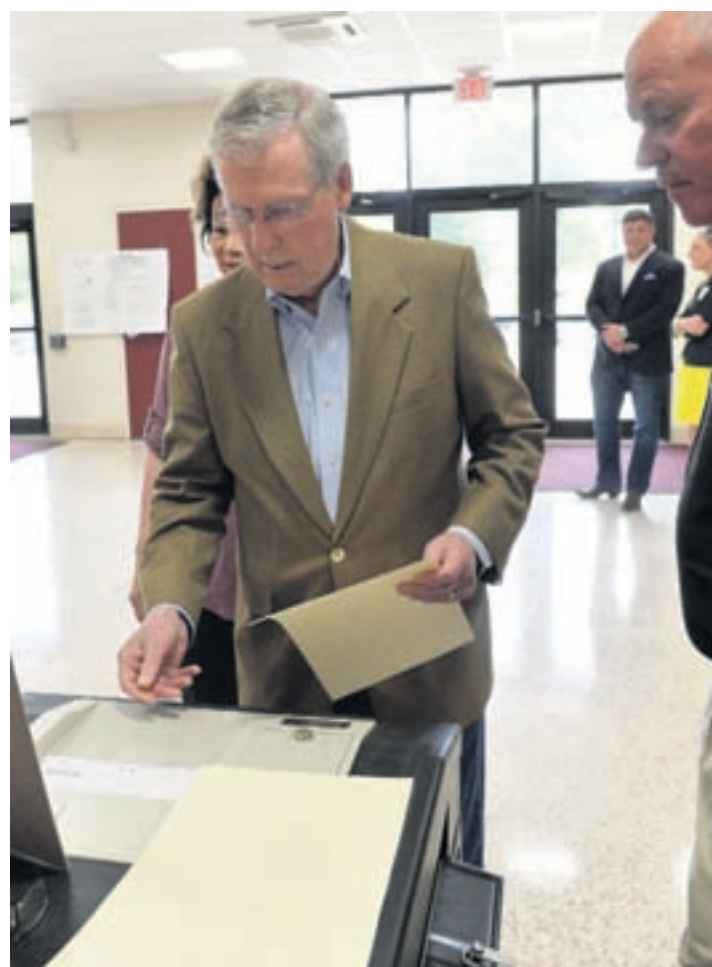
In another southern state, Georgia, the Democratic candidate, Michelle Nunn, is from one of the state's most famous political families. She's vying for the seat her father, Sam Nunn, held

four terms.

Businessman David Perdue, Rep. Jack Kingston and former Secretary of State Karen Handel were among those seeking the Republican nomination in a struggle likely headed for a two-way runoff on July 22. Reps. Phil Gingrey and Paul Broun also were on the ballot. The incumbent, Saxby Chambliss, is retiring.

The race was fiercely expensive — \$10 million had been spent on television commercials through the end of last week — and highlighted the divisions within the party. Perdue relied on his background as a businessman, while Broun and Gingrey ran further to the right. Handel sought to capitalize on the backing of former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, and Kingston had the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In Oregon, Republicans picking a nominee to oppose Sen. Jeff Merkley chose between state congressman Jason Conger and Monica Wehby, a physician. □



Kentucky Republican Senator Mitch McConnell, center, casts his ballot in Kentucky's mid-term primary Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky. Ten months and \$12 million later, Kentucky Republicans put an end to the fight Tuesday between McConnell and Matt Bevin in a Republican Senate primary that failed to live up to its pre-election buzz. McConnell, defeated his tea party challenger.

(AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley)

## Young immigrants disenchanted with both parties, survey shows

JULIA PRESTON

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Only about half of young immigrants who grew up in the United States without legal status identify with the Democratic Party, while nearly half say they are independents or have some other nonparty affiliation, according to a study published Tuesday.

The findings run counter to perceptions that the young immigrants, who are known as "Dreamers," overwhelmingly favor Democrats, and suggest that their political views will be shaped by what progress is made in Washington on an immigration overhaul that would provide a path to citizenship. The study also reveals skepticism among the youths about both political parties, although more so about Republicans. According to the study, about 4 in 10 felt closer to the Democratic Party based

on its positions on immigration, while 5 percent said they felt closer to the Republicans because of their views. Four in 10 young immigrants said they could not support Democrats "as long as immigration reform is not passed."

The nationwide study is based on one of the largest surveys to date of youths in the country illegally, who have been difficult to sample because of their immigration status. The results are based on responses from 1,472 immigrants in surveys conducted in late 2013 and early this year.

The study was led by Tom K. Wong, a professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego. It was commissioned by Unbound Philanthropy, a foundation that funds immigrant and refugee rights groups, and the United We Dream Network, an advocacy group. □

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## Pennsylvania gay marriage ban overturned by judge

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Pennsylvania's ban on gay marriage was overturned Tuesday by a federal judge in a decision that makes same-sex marriage legal throughout the Northeast. Pennsylvania was the last remaining state to outlaw gay marriage in the Northeast, a region that tends to be socially liberal and Democratic. An appeal to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is likely. If the decision stands, Pennsylvania would become the 19th state to legalize gay marriage.

State marriage bans have been falling around the U.S., including in several socially conservative states, since the Supreme Court last year struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act in a landmark ruling. Oregon became the 18th state on Monday, when jubilant couples began applying for marriage licenses immediately after a federal judge issued a ruling that invalidated that state's voter-approved same-sex marriage ban. The issue of state marriage bans is ultimately expected to be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In Pennsylvania, U.S. District Judge John Jones decision Tuesday was a victory for 11 couples, a widow and one of the couples' two teenage daughters who filed the first challenge to the law. Gov. Tom Corbett's office had defended the law after the state's attorney general called it unconstitutional and refused to defend it.

"We are a better people than what these laws represent, and it is time to discard them into the ash heap of history," Jones wrote of the 1996 state ban. Jones, a Republican, was appointed by former President George W. Bush. County offices in Philadelphia stayed open late to handle marriage applications, while officials in Pittsburgh were closed for elections but accepting them online. Couples must wait three days before getting married, unless a sympathetic judge grants a waiver.



Ashley Wilson, left, and Lindsay Vandermay, both 29, react after getting their marriage license at the Philadelphia Marriage Bureau in City Hall, Tuesday, May 20, 2014, in Philadelphia. Pennsylvania's ban on gay marriage was overturned by a federal judge Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

The plaintiffs said the ban deprives them of the legal and tax benefits enjoyed by married couples.

One of the plaintiffs, Maureen Hennessey, married her longtime companion, Mary Beth McIntyre, out of state in 2011. McIntyre died in May after battling cancer.

The Pennsylvania lawsuit, filed July 9, was the first known challenge to the state law that effectively bans same-sex marriage and the recognition of gay marriages from other states. At least five later challenges have surfaced in state and federal courts since the lawsuit was filed, including one in which a county official is defending his decision to issue 174 marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Corbett's lawyers argued in support of the ban last week in a separate lawsuit over "marriage recognition." A lesbian couple in Philadelphia who married in Massachusetts in 2005 has asked the court to force Pennsylvania to legally recognize their marriage.

A Quinnipiac University poll in February showed that 57 percent of about 1,400 Pennsylvania voters surveyed approve of same-sex marriage, compared with 37 percent who are opposed. □

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# Parade of GM recalls rolls on; 2.4M more vehicles

**DEE-ANN DURBIN**

**AP Auto Writer**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Another day, another recall from General Motors.

At least that's the way it seems as the automaker reviews safety issues across its line-up of cars and trucks in the wake of a mishandled recall of millions of older small cars.

The number of recalls issued this year by the nation's top carmaker rose Tuesday to 29 as GM announced four separate actions affecting 2.4 million cars and trucks. While no fatalities were involved in the latest recalls, the problems were serious enough that GM has temporarily halted sales of the vehicles.

GM has recalled 13.6 million vehicles in the U.S. since early February. That's more than the total number of cars it sold here in the last five years, and already surpasses GM's previous U.S. recall record of 10.75 million vehicles, set in 2004. By comparison, rival Ford has recalled 1.2 million vehicles in the U.S. this year, while Toyota has recalled 2.9 million, according to federal

data and the companies. The parade of bad news is part of the fallout from GM's recall of 2.6 million Chevrolet Cobalts and other small cars for de-

fective ignition switches — and a consequence of government regulation. GM says it's redoubling ef-

orts to resolve outstanding safety issues. It's hiring 35 new safety investigators and is issuing recalls one by one, as soon as a decision is made. GM can't wait

and announce a group of recalls once a month; it's required by federal law to report defects to the government within five days of discovering them.

A failure to follow that law landed GM in hot water with the government. The company agreed last week to pay a \$35 million federal fine for concealing a deadly defect in the ignition switches for more than a decade. GM says at least 13 people have died in crashes linked to the problem, although trial lawyers suing the company say the death toll is at least 53. Congress and the Justice Department have ongoing investigations.

The recalls haven't yet impacted GM's U.S. sales, which were up 7 percent in April. But Akshay Anand, an industry analyst with Kelley Blue Book, said Tuesday's order to dealers to stop selling the 2015 Cadillac Escalade and 2014 Buick Enclave, Chevrolet Traverse and GMC Acadia until they're repaired could give more buyers pause. The initial recalls covered older models like the discontinued Cobalt; now they're affecting newer models. □



This photo shows the 2013 Buick Enclave is shown at a news conference in New York. General Motors on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 announced the recall of 2.4 million vehicles in the U.S., including the 2013 Enclave and other full-size crossovers from the 2009-2014 model years, as part of a broader effort to resolve outstanding safety issues more quickly.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

fective ignition switches — and a consequence of government regulation. GM says it's redoubling ef-

## 10 largest General Motors recalls this year

The Associated Press  
General Motors issued four recalls covering 2.4 million cars and trucks on Tuesday.

That brings GM to a total of 29 recalls of 13.6 million vehicles in the U.S. so far this year. Here are the 10 largest U.S. recalls the company has announced this year.

— 2.4 million midsize cars because the brake light wires can corrode, causing the lights to fail. Includes 2004-2012 Chevrolet Malibu, Pontiac G6 and Saturn Aura.

— 2.2 million small cars for defective ignition switches. The recall (which totals 2.6 million worldwide), includes the 2005-2007 Chevrolet Cobalt and Pontiac G5; 2003-2007 Saturn Ion; and 2006-2007 Chevrolet HHR, Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky, and any newer models from 2008-2011 that got the switches as replacement parts.

— 2.2 million small cars

to replace ignition lock cylinders so drivers can't remove their keys while the engine is running. Affects the same vehicles involved in the ignition switch recall.

— 1.3 million small and midsize cars because the electronic power assist can stop working. Includes the 2004-2005 Chevrolet Malibu, 2009-2010 Chevrolet HHR and 2008-2009 Saturn Aura.

— 1.3 million crossovers because the front safety lap belt cables can wear down and separate over time. Includes the 2009-2014 Buick Enclave, Chevrolet Traverse, GMC Acadia and Saturn Outlook.

— 1.2 million crossovers because their side air bags, front center air bags and seat belt pretensioners might not deploy if drivers ignore an air bag warning light on their dashboard. Includes the 2008-2013 Buick Enclave and GMC Acadia; 2009-2013 Chevrolet Traverse; and 2008-

2010 Saturn Outlook.

— 1.1 million midsize cars because a shift cable can wear out over time, making it impossible to change gears or remove the key from the ignition. Includes 2004-2008 Chevrolet Malibu and 2005-2008 Pontiac G6.

— 490,000 pickups and SUVs because transmission oil can leak from a fitting and hit hot surfaces, causing fires. Includes the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra 1500 pickups and 2015 Chevrolet Suburban and Tahoe and GMC Yukon and Yukon XL.

— 303,000 pickups because the exhaust components can overheat and start a fire. Includes the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra.

— 303,000 vans because the material on the instrument panel might not adequately protect unbelted passengers' heads in a crash. Includes 2009-2014 Chevrolet Express and GMC Savana. □



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## US Financial Front:

# Housing debt still traps nearly 10 million Americans

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Nearly 10 million Americans remain financially trapped by homes worth less than their mortgage debts — an enduring drag on the U.S. economy almost seven years after the housing bust triggered the Great Recession.

During the first three months of this year, 18.8 percent of homeowners with a mortgage — 9.7 million — owed more on their loans than their properties would sell for, according to online real estate database Zillow. Though that was an improvement from the 25.4 percent figure of a year ago, the share of such "underwater" homeowners is about four times the historic average.

An additional 18.1 percent of mortgage holders were "effectively" underwater: They had equity, but the proceeds from selling their home would be too low to recoup the sales costs and also put a down payment on a new property.

The consequence is that few Americans are putting their homes on the market, thereby limiting the economic growth made possible by sales. Because of the shortage of homes being listed, bidding wars have inflated prices in parts of the country to levels that squeeze out many first-time and middle class buyers.

The problem is most pronounced among starter homes with prices averaging around \$100,000, 30.2 percent of whose owners are burdened by underwater mortgages, sometimes called negative equity.

"The unfortunate reality is that housing markets look to be swimming with un-



A home is for sale in the Winthrop subdivision in Riverview, Fla. Nearly 10 million Americans remain financially trapped by homes worth less than their mortgage debts — an enduring drag on the U.S. economy almost seven years after the housing bust triggered the Great Recession.  
(AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

derwater borrowers for years to come," said Stan Humphries, chief economist at Zillow.

The share of mortgage holders with negative equity is projected to drop to 17 percent at the start of next year, according to Zillow. Several major U.S. metro areas are stuck with residents who have high rates of negative equity. In Chicago, almost 45 percent are underwater or effectively underwater. The rate is 53.1 percent in Atlanta, 50.6 percent in Las Vegas, 46.6 percent in Charlotte, 44 percent in St. Louis, and 43.2 percent in Tampa.

Sales of existing homes have slowed after strong growth in the first half of 2013. □

## Study gives e-cigarettes edge in helping smokers quit

SABRINA TAVERNISE

© 2014 New York Times

A large study has found that smokers trying to quit were substantially more likely to succeed if they used electronic cigarettes than over-the-counter therapies such as nicotine patches or gum. These results offered encouraging but not definitive evidence in the contentious debate about the risks and benefits of these increasingly popular smoking devices.

Researchers interviewed almost 6,000 smokers who had tried to quit on their own without counseling from a health professional. About a fifth of those who said they were using e-cigarettes had stopped smoking at the time of the survey, compared with about a tenth of people who had used patches and gum.

"This will not settle the e-cigarette issue by any means," said Thomas J. Glynn, a researcher at the

American Cancer Society, who was not part of the study, "but it is further evidence that, in a real-world context, e-cigarettes can be a useful, although not revolutionary, tool in helping some smokers to stop." Use of e-cigarettes has risen rapidly across Europe and the United States, and regulators are scrambling to figure out how to respond in the absence of hard evidence about their effects. The debate is particularly fierce in the United States, where some experts say the devices could lure children to start smoking, while others contend that they are the best hope in generations to get smokers to switch to something less dangerous than traditional cigarettes. About 42 million Americans smoke, and some 480,000 people die every year from smoking-related illnesses, this country's leading cause of preventable death. The

central question is whether e-cigarettes will cause the ranks of smokers to shrink or swell. So far, the evidence is too thin to provide a convincing answer. The Food and Drug Administration has commissioned a broad study, but its results will not be known for years. A clinical trial in New Zealand, which many researchers regard as the most reliable study to date, found that people given e-cigarettes had only a slightly better quit rate than those with patches. While the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes are unknown, many health experts believe that the concentrations of toxins in the vapor are much lower than in cigarette smoke.

The English study was not a clinical trial, the gold standard of scientific research, in which participants would have been randomly assigned to different groups; for example, one that used

e-cigarettes to quit and another that used nicotine replacement therapies. But authors of the study said that they controlled for many factors - including social class, age, level of nicotine dependence, and time since the attempt to quit first started. They also said the study, one of the largest to date, offered valuable insights into the real world experience of smokers. Robert West, director of tobacco studies at University College London and senior author of the study, which is to be published Wednesday in the journal *Addiction*, said that clinical trials could not answer the question most people have about whether e-cigarettes help smokers quit because the devices are changing so fast that they become obsolete before an experiment ends.

Continued on Page 27

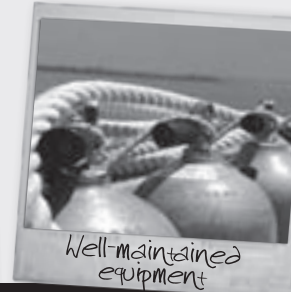


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Foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei looks at the papers before he speaks during a daily briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Beijing, China Tuesday, May 20, 2014. China on Tuesday warned the United States was jeopardizing military ties by charging five Chinese officers with cyberspying and tried to turn the tables on Washington by calling it "the biggest attacker of China's cyberspace." (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

## China to US: Cyber charges could damage military ties

**JOE McDONALD**  
**Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON/BEIJING**  
**(AP)** — China on Tuesday warned the United States was jeopardizing military ties by charging five Chinese officers with cyberspying and tried to turn the tables on Washington by calling it "the biggest attacker of China's cyberspace."

China announced it was suspending cooperation with the United States in a joint cybersecurity task force over Monday's charges that officers stole trade secrets from major American companies. The Foreign Ministry demanded Washington withdraw the indictment. The testy exchange marked an escalation in tensions over U.S. complaints that China's military uses its cyber warfare skills to steal foreign trade secrets to help the country's

vast state-owned industrial sector. A U.S. security firm, Mandiant, said last year it traced attacks on American and other companies to a military unit in Shanghai.

The charges are the biggest challenge to relations since a meeting last summer between President Barack Obama and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in Sunnylands, California.

Ties already were under strain due to conflicts over what Washington says are provocative Chinese moves to assert claims over disputed areas of the East and South China Seas. Beijing complains the Obama administration's effort to shift foreign policy emphasis toward Asia and expand its military presence in the region is emboldening Japan and other neighbors and fueling tension.

Beijing has denied conducting commercial spying and said it is a victim of computer hacking, but has given little indication it investigates foreign complaints.

"The Chinese government and Chinese military as well as relevant personnel have never engaged and never participated in so-called cyber theft of trade secrets," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Hong Lei, at a news briefing. "What the United States should do now is withdraw its indictment."

The Ministry of Defense warned that the U.S. accusations would chill gradually warming relations between the two militaries.

"The United States, by this action, betrays its commitment to building healthy, stable, reliable military-to-military relations and causes serious damage to mutual trust," it said. □

## U.S. hacking victims fell prey to mundane ruses

**JACK GILLUM**  
**ERIC TUCKER**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The hacking techniques the U.S. government says China used against American companies turned out to be disappointingly mundane, tricking employees into opening email attachments or clicking on innocent-looking website links.

The scariest part might be how successfully the ruses worked. With a mouse click or two, employees at big-name American makers of nuclear and solar technology gave away the keys to their computer networks. In a 31-count indictment announced on Monday the Justice Department said five Chinese military officials operating under hacker aliases such as "Ugly Gorilla," "KandyGoo" and "Jack Sun" stole confidential business information, sensitive trade secrets and internal communications for competitive advantage. The U.S. identified the alleged victims as Alcoa World Alumina, Westinghouse, Allegheny Technologies, U.S. Steel, United Steelworkers Union and SolarWorld.

China denied it all on Tuesday.

"The Chinese government and Chinese military as well as relevant personnel have never engaged and never participated in so-called cybertheft of trade secrets," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in Beijing. "What the United States should do now is withdraw its indictment."

That's unlikely. What the Justice Department is doing is spelling out exactly how it says China pulled it off.

The U.S. says the break-ins were more slapstick than professional spy work. In some cases, the government says, the hackers used "spear-phishing" — a well-known scam to trick specific companies or employees into infecting their own computers.

The hackers are said to have created a fake email account under the misspelled name of a then-Alcoa director and fooled an employee into opening an email attachment called "agenda.zip," billed as the agenda to a 2008 shareholders' meeting. It exposed the company's network. At another time, a hacker allegedly emailed company employees with a link to what appeared to be a report about industry observations, but the link instead installed malicious software that created a back door into the company's network.

"We are so used to solving problems by clicking an email link, looking at the information and forwarding it on," said Chris Wysopal, a computer security expert and chief technology officer of the software-security firm Veracode. "And if hackers know about you and your company, they can create really realistic-looking messages."

And use of the rudimentary efforts the Justice Department described doesn't mean foreign governments and others won't use more sophisticated and harder-to-detect techniques, said Joshua Corman, the chief technology officer for Sonatype, which helps businesses make their software development secure. □





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## Pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine face citizen backlash

A. ZEMLIANICHENKO  
JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine (AP)

— From the country's richest man to citizens under fire, anger and dismay over Ukraine's eastern turmoil gained strength Tuesday, but pro-Russian rebels who have declared the region independent vowed defiance.

In Kiev, home to the central government that the separatists detest, lawmakers passed a memorandum that guaranteed the status of Russian as Ukraine's second official language and proposed government decentralization.

While the document offered no specifics or time-frame, Russia — which long had pressed for both commitments — offered words of guarded welcome.

"If what you are saying is true, this is the development we have been speaking about for the past months," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin was quoted as telling state news agency RIA Novosti.

In Mariupol, an eastern Ukrainian city that suffered fatal clashes this month between protesters and police,

workers at a steel mill stopped their labor at noon as a siren blew. They gathered for a speech from the company's chief condemning the separatist movement known as the Donetsk People's Republic. "We are here because Mariupol needs a peaceful sky above us.

Tanks and guns have no place in our city," said mill worker Sergey Kulitsh.

The plant is part of the industrial empire of Rinat Akhmetov, regarded as Ukraine's richest man, who

had called for his workers to attend noontime protests.

The tycoon vowed to challenge the insurgents who declared independence last week in the Donetsk

and Luhansk regions, home to 6.5 million people.

"No one will frighten us, including those calling themselves a Donetsk People's Republic," Akhmetov said

in a statement.

Last week, his company organized steelworkers to patrol alongside police in Mariupol. The move forced insurgents to vacate gov-

ernment buildings they had seized in the Black Sea port.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov hailed Akhmetov's move as likely to "sweep the terrorist scum away better than any counterterrorist operation."

One rebel leader in Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, retaliated Tuesday by threatening to nationalize Akhmetov's businesses over his refusal to pay taxes to the separatists.

Ukraine is holding a presidential election Sunday, which the government in Kiev hopes will unite the country behind a new leader.

Separatists exchanged fire again Tuesday with government forces on the outskirts of Slovyansk — the epicenter of the rebellion against the government — as residents voiced their anger over the fighting. □



Neighbors comfort Yekaterina Len, 61, center, in her destroyed house following a shelling in Slovyansk, eastern Ukraine, Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Slovyansk has been the major fighting ground between pro-Russian insurgents and Ukrainian government troops in eastern Ukraine.

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

## UN report: 21 million in forced labor worldwide

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP)

— Forced labor produces illegal profits of \$150 billion a year, the United Nations' labor agency said Tuesday as it appealed for global eradication of the abuse.

The report by the International Labor Organization offered the agency's fullest picture yet of an underground economy built on the involuntary toil of an estimated 21 million workers. It found that nearly two-thirds of the estimated profits, \$99 billion, come from sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography.

Women were most commonly the victims of forced employment in sex-related trades and domestic

chores, while men and boys were more commonly exploited in agricultural, mining and construction work, it found. The director-general, Guy Ryder, said the report highlights the need "to eradicate this fundamentally evil but hugely profitable practice as soon as possible." He said many governments, employers and labor unions all needed to do more to stamp out abusive employment practices, including outright slavery.

The report said the world's most developed countries, including the entire European Union, accounted for nearly a third of the illegal profits, \$46.9 billion, while the rest of the Asia Pacific

region generated \$51.8 billion. Other regions had much lower totals.

It found that exploited workers generated much more money per head for their employers in the richest countries. Estimated profits in developed countries reached \$34,800 per worker, while Africa registered the lowest per-capita profit rate of \$3,900.

Worldwide, it found sexually exploited workers produced by far the highest profits for their employers: \$21,800 per worker, versus just \$2,500 on average for each farm laborer, and \$2,200 for each domestic worker. Ryder said governments needed to improve welfare support "to pre-

vent households from sliding into the poverty that pushes people into forced labor," he said. "We need to improve levels of education and literacy so that household decision-makers can understand their own vulnerability to forced labor and know their rights as workers." The agency's previous report on the topic of forced labor, in 2005, estimated worldwide profits at \$44 billion. But that report focused chiefly on sex-related work and agriculture, whereas Tuesday's report expanded its analysis greatly to include miners, construction workers, maids and au pairs, and other jobs involving employer coercion and little pay. □



## China gives Putin a diplomatic boost

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

**SHANGHAI (AP)** — President Vladimir Putin met Tuesday with China's president in a diplomatic boost for the isolated Russian leader but the two sides had yet to agree on a widely anticipated multibillion-dollar natural gas sale. Putin, shunned by the West

any moment."

A deal would give Moscow an economic and political boost at a time of Western sanctions, while pressure on Moscow is thought to give Beijing leverage to push for a lower price. The U.S. treasury secretary, Jacob Lew, appealed to China during a visit last week to avoid taking steps

said last week Russia might block access to Twitter. Putin and Xi attended the signing of 49 cooperation deals in fields including energy, transport and infrastructure, but no details were given at the ceremony. The price of gas is the sticking point in the proposed agreement between Russia's govern-



**Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, shakes hands with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai, left, as Chinese President Xi Jinping looks on during a group photo for the fourth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Shanghai, China, Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Putin met Tuesday with China's president in a diplomatic boost for the isolated Russian leader but the two sides had yet to agree on a widely anticipated multibillion-dollar natural gas sale.**

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, Pool)

over Ukraine, met with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a start of a two-day meeting on Asian security with leaders from Iran and Central Asia. The Russian leader is hoping to extend his country's dealings with Asia and diversify markets for its gas, which now goes mostly to Europe. Russia has been negotiating for more than a decade on a proposed 30-year deal to supply gas to China. Officials said they hoped to complete work in time to sign a contract while Putin is in Shanghai. But Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said Tuesday it wasn't finalized. "Significant progress has been reached on gas, but there are issues that need to be finalized regarding the price," Peskov said, according to Russian news agencies. He said a contract could be signed "at

that might offset sanctions. However, American officials have acknowledged China's pressing need for energy. In a joint statement, Putin and Xi urged Ukrainians to start "broad nationwide talks" on ending their country's crisis. Russia has been pressing for such talks and they are an element of a peace plan proposed by European mediators. The Ukrainian government has refused to invite separatist rebels in the country's east to participate. The statement appealed for global rules to limit use of computer technology to hurt state sovereignty, a reference to efforts to curb the spread of online opposition to authoritarian governments. Beijing tries to block material that criticizes one-party rule, while Moscow has tightened controls. An official

ment-controlled Gazprom and state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. A deal looked more likely after Washington and the European Union imposed asset freezes and visa bans on dozens of Russian officials and several companies. The deal to pipe Siberian gas to China's northeast would help Russia diversify export routes away from Europe. It would help to ease Chinese gas shortages and heavy reliance on coal. Putin told Chinese reporters ahead of his visit that China-Russia cooperation had reached an all-time high. "China is our reliable friend. To expand cooperation with China is undoubtedly Russia's diplomatic priority," Putin said, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. □

## Europe far-right softening its image for upcoming election

DEREK GATOPOULOS

Associated Press

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — There were no intimidating guards at the door, or angry chants of "Blood, Honor, Golden Dawn," as there have been in the past.

In fact, the guests looked more like members of a large wedding party than supporters of Europe's most prominent extreme-right political group.

At a central Athens hotel, Golden Dawn presented candidates for this week's European Parliament elections who would have looked out of place a few months ago: Lawyers, entrepreneurs, and university lecturers, the women seated at the front.

Struggling to form alliances, even the most extreme parts of Europe's far right are softening their image, as a wide variety of anti-establishment parties seek gains across a continent emerging from financial crisis.

Golden Dawn's leaders for decades expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler and their supporters staged regular protests in paramilitary-style outfits. The leaders are currently jailed on charges of running a criminal organization.

This week, though, campaign volunteers handed out helium-filled balloons to children, and candidates ran under the relatively tame slogan of "For a Europe of Nations, Not Banks."

Campaigns elsewhere in Europe were also tempered. In Hungary, Gabor Vona, leader of the far-right Jobbik party, previously described Jewish groups as "Israeli conquerors," pledging that his country would not give into them even if "all of Europe licks their feet."

Now, Jobbik has cut out his vitriolic rhetoric against Jews and Gypsies, and Vona is seen on party pamphlets cradling three puppies in his lap.

Far-right and ultra-nationalist parties are likely to win or regain representation in around a dozen of the Eu-

ropean Union's 28 members, with Austria's Freedom Party likely to make a strong showing, along with France's National Front, Jobbik and nationalists and anti-immigration parties in Latvia, Bulgaria, Denmark, the Netherlands and elsewhere.

Golden Dawn is polling around 8 percent in opinion surveys, and its candidate for mayor of Athens received 16 percent of the vote in weekend municipal elections. Despite the success, cooperation with other nationalists in Europe could prove difficult.

France's surprise poll leader, the National Front, has publicly distanced itself from Golden Dawn and Jobbik as it bids for the mainstream vote. And Geert Wilders, leader of the anti-immigration Dutch Freedom Party, also described Golden Dawn as "too extreme and militaristic" to allow an alliance.

Dutch researcher Cas Mudde argues the popular perception of a far-right ascendancy across Europe is mistaken. "When you put it in a historical context, there isn't actually that much change," said Mudde, an assistant professor in the Department of International Affairs at the University of Georgia in the United States. The far-right vote, he said, has receded in as many countries as it has gained over the past decade. "Parties come and go. The Greater Romania party had been a been a major party through the 1990s and then completely disappeared," he said, while British National Party leader Nick Griffin is unlikely to be re-elected to the European Parliament.

Far-right support rises and falls, Mudde argued, as issues like local corruption, immigration, and multiculturalism appear and fade from national debate.

The once-marginal Golden Dawn saw its support explode as financial crisis sank Greeks into poverty, and voters of traditionally dominant parties became disillusioned. □





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### Mediators leave Venezuela as chaos continues

**FABIOLA SANCHEZ  
LUIS ALONSO LUGO**  
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A South American effort to end a standoff in talks between Venezuela's government and opposition appeared to have stalled Tuesday, while legislation in the U.S. Congress to punish Venezuelan officials for human rights abuses took a step forward. The foreign ministers of Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador left Caracas after a two-day visit without persuading opponents of President Nicolas Maduro to return to talks aimed at easing the country's political crisis. In a statement issued Tuesday, the diplomats urged both sides to reflect on the next steps and decide on the date for another meeting in the near future. As a condition for returning to negotiations, they are demanding progress on their proposals, including an amnesty for jailed activists and a non-partisan commission to investigate the 42 deaths tied to anti-government protests that began in February. The government's "promises aren't enough," Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, executive secretary of the Democratic Unity alliance, said at a news conference Tuesday. Maduro has accused the opposition of being obstructionist. On Monday, he urged them not to walk away from the negotiating table, saying such a disappointing outcome goes against the wishes of millions of Venezuelans and benefits the country's foreign enemies. □

## Video prompts look at Palestinian killings

**KARIN LAUB**  
Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Security-camera video showing two unarmed Palestinians crumpling to the ground during a lull in a stone-throwing clash with Israeli soldiers revived allegations by human rights activists Tuesday that the troops often use excessive force. The Israeli rights group B'Tselem said the images back its findings that troops killed the teens without cause by firing live rounds from more than 200 meters away. The soldiers were in "zero danger" at the time, said Sarit Michaeli of B'Tselem. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said, "It was a life-threatening situation, so the officers acted accordingly." He said he hadn't seen the video, but alleged the images had been manipulated through editing. Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a senior spokesman, said preliminary findings show forces fired only rubber-coated steel pellets, a standard means of crowd control,

and did not use live fire. The United Nations and the U.S. State Department called on the Israeli authorities to conduct a transparent investigation. U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-

rect threat."

At issue is a clash between Israeli troops and Palestinian stone-throwers May 15 near the West Bank town of Beitouniya, a few hundred meters from an Israeli military base, Ofer. On that

ian youths burned tires in a main street and threw stones toward Israeli troops, according to witnesses and B'Tselem. Troops fired rubber bullets, but also four live rounds, said resident Fakhre Zayed, who said he witnessed the confrontation from his balcony. Four security cameras mounted on Zayed's building captured the events on the street below. The security footage first surfaced late Monday when a local advocacy group, Defense for Children International Palestine, released excerpts that it said showed the two fatal shootings. B'Tselem later obtained the unedited footage, which was also given to The Associated Press, and said there was no indication the images had been tampered with. In the first incident, clocked by the time stamp at 1:45 p.m., a figure with a backpack walks from the left side of the street toward a group of Palestinians standing near a building wall on the other side. Suddenly, the figure falls to the ground. □



**A Palestinian man shouts for help moments after Palestinian Mohammad Abu Daher, 17, is killed in a clash with Israeli troops near the West Bank city of Ramallah.**

(AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)

Taranco told the Security Council's monthly Mideast briefing: "It is of serious concern that initial information appears to indicate that the two Palestinians killed were both unarmed and appeared to pose no di-

day, Palestinians marked the anniversary of their uprooting in the war over Israel's 1948 creation by holding marches and protests in the West Bank and Gaza. Starting around midday, several dozen Palestin-

## African warlord Kony makes son his deputy

**R. MUHUMUZA**  
Associated Press

**KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)** — The fugitive African warlord Joseph Kony has handed over command of his group to one of his sons, a Ugandan military official said on Tuesday, an elevation that further marginalizes senior commanders who may threaten Kony's fading authority. Salim Saleh was born in the 1990s, has spent all his life in the bush, and is said to be as ruthless as Kony. Ugandan military spokesman Lt. Col. Paddy Ankun-

da said Saleh is "as hard as his father, radical like his father." "It appears that the son has now taken over completely," Ankunda said, noting that Kony increasingly has to rely on his sons to stay fully in charge of a group in decline. Kony is the subject of an international manhunt involving U.S. forces in parts of Central Africa, where his group — the Lord's Resistance Army — has wreaked havoc over the years in violent rampages that include the abduction of children.

The LRA has taken boys who are then forced to become fighters and girls who become sex slaves, one of the reasons the group has gained international attention in recent times. Saleh has been in charge of Kony's security amid a heightened search for the warlord and his top commanders in Congo and Central African Republic. In 2008, as Uganda's government tried to reach a peace settlement with the LRA, Kony failed to show up for the signing ceremony and instead sent Saleh,

then a teenager, to represent him. The talks collapsed. Kony has since used the region's porous borders to go back and forth between Central African Republic and a disputed enclave in Sudanese territory called Kafia Kingi, according to Ugandan officials and watchdog groups. Kony is wanted by the International Criminal Court for atrocities committed since the 1980s, when he waged an insurgency against Uganda's government that later spilled across the region. □



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# Cuban blogger launching indie newspaper

**M. WEISSENSTEIN**  
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Cuba's best-known blogger says she will start publishing a general-interest newspaper online Wednesday in a move that will test both the government's openness to free expression and the dissident's ability to build a following inside her country.

Yoani Sanchez and her husband Reinaldo Escobar say they have been working for months with a staff of nine and contributors from around the island to produce a regularly updated website and a weekly PDF of a newspaper dedicated to providing Cubans with essential information — rather than attacking the government.

Escobar, who will be the editor-in-chief, told The Associated Press the paper will not have a print version and while it does not have an official license to operate, the staff will seek to avoid legal trouble by avoiding any aspect of distribution beyond publishing online. Cuban law contains a number of prohibitions against the distribution of mass media to undermine values including "social order, international solidarity or the socialist state." In addition, newspaper publishing is not on a list of approved private businesses, so there is no way for Sanchez and Escobar to get a license to operate and hire staff.

The government has made no official comment on Sanchez's plans, though it considers all dissidents to be mercenaries paid by Washington to stir up trouble. Sanchez has gained global renown and a string of foreign awards for her blog "Generation Y," which offers scathing criticism of Cuba's communist

government. She has more than 600,000 followers on Twitter, but she is far less well-known inside Cuba, where Internet access is expensive and unavailable in virtually all homes and few businesses.

The paper will be called "14ymedio," a play on the year of the paper's founding and the Spanish word

News stories will avoid charged terms like "regime" or "dictatorship," referring to the government as simply "the government," and President Raul Castro as "head of state" or "President Gen. Raul Castro," he said.

Escobar said "14ymedio" will probably anger government opponents by

regularly checking and publishing the cost of basic foods and other daily necessities. "If the reality we reflect seems uncomfortable, that's not us, that's reality," he said.

Dissidents already produce a handful of news sites from inside Cuba, and the Roman Catholic Church prints two major magazines. But



A man reads a copy of Cuba's state newspaper *Granma* while waiting for the bus in Havana, Cuba, Monday, May 19, 2014. Cuba's best-known blogger Yoani Sanchez and her husband Reinaldo Escobar say they will start publishing the country's first major independent general-interest newspaper in more than 50 years on Wednesday, in a move that will test both the government's openness to free expression and the dissident's ability to build a following inside her country.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

for media. Sanchez described it on her blog she hopes the publication "will help and accompany the necessary change that will take place in our country ... a space to tell Cuba's story from inside Cuba."

While columnists will be free to express dissident opinions, and Sanchez's blog will be incorporated into the new publication, much of the paper will be made up of the stuff of ordinary news sites, including a cooking section and entertainment listings and reviews, Escobar said.

publishing listings of events in state-run venues. The paper will apply for accreditation to cover government news conferences and other events, but doesn't expect to get it, he said.

"We want to produce a newspaper that doesn't aim to be anti-Castro, a newspaper that's committed to the truth, to Cubans' everyday reality," he said. Some of the paper's planned features will be politically pointed, however. Escobar said the paper plans to create an unofficial consumer price index

none are seen as true competition for Cuba's three widely distributed state-run newspapers or its official television or radio stations. The government once blocked the website for Sanchez's blog, but amid a series of economic reforms it has taken a softer line against many of its detractors in recent years, freeing dozens of dissidents serving long jail terms and allowing government opponents to travel outside the country along with other Cubans by eliminating the need for a special travel permit. □

## Bermuda gets a new premier in controversy

**JOSH BALL**

**Associated Press**

**HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP)**

— The premier of Bermuda has abruptly resigned his post and been replaced by his deputy amid a campaign finance controversy in the wealthy British island territory. Michael Dunkley took the oath of office Tuesday to take over from Craig Cannonier and said he would continue the work of his predecessor.

Cannonier, who was elected to head the government in December 2012, said in a televised statement late Monday that opposition allegations his party improperly accepted a campaign contribution from U.S. developers seeking business opportunities in Bermuda had undermined his ability to lead.

"This controversy has called into question my integrity and my leadership, the confidence of my colleagues and the support of my party, threatening the good work of the government going forward," he said. "Nothing illegal was done, but I accept there was a failure over time to be completely transparent." Cannonier has acknowledged meeting with U.S. developer Nathan Landow and several associates and said his party, the One Bermuda Alliance, accepted a campaign contribution. Local media have reported the amount as \$300,000.

Opposition lawmakers had called on the premier to resign, saying he should not have accepted a flight on Landow's private jet or allowed the party to accept a contribution from developers seeking to do business in the island. □





## Aruba looks forward to a Sustainable Tomato Supply: KLM's Green Aruba Challenge solved with 'Land Life Box'



ing the Green Aruba Challenge, where companies and individuals were invited to submit an idea to help Aruba reach its milestones.

Dutchman Jan Tijs Nijssen was the absolute winner in the KLM Green Aruba Challenge with the solution for cultivating plants and vegetables in a warm and dry climate.

Nijssen presented this project called "Land Life Box"



**ORANJESTAD** – Aruba plans to be fully sustainable by the year 2020 and in order to achieve this national goal many systems still need to be put in place. The Aruban Government, under the leadership of PM Mike Eman, has launched a large-scale campaign called 'Green Aruba - Our road to 2020'.

KLM Innovations, whom carry similar goals, joined in Aruba's drive by launch-



not for business interest only, but also for the people of Aruba who are interested in cultivating their own fruits and vegetables in their own yard.

Nijssen received a standing ovation at the end of his presentation with his headline: "Sustainable Tomato Supply." □





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Good Will. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.



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The honorees were Mr. Sheldon and Mrs. Irene Sivakoff of Wilmington, Delaware, Mr. Robert and Mrs. Joanna Schmidhauser of Barnegat, New Jersey, Mr. Stuart and Mrs. Lynn Buchman of Orange, Connecticut, and Mrs. Gloria Peters Wynn of Bronx, New York. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because

of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, Casino's and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with the Hamman family and Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt representing the Marriott Surf Club. □



## Loyal visitors honored at the Caribbean Palm Village



**NOORD** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Caribbean Palm Village, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of

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The honorees were Mr. Michael and Mrs. Crystal Smith and their daughter Hayley Smith of Owosso, Michigan and Mr. David Keytanjian of Soring City, Pennsylvania. All the honorees are loyal members of the Caribbean

Palm Village and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, Casinos and Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and the Caribbean

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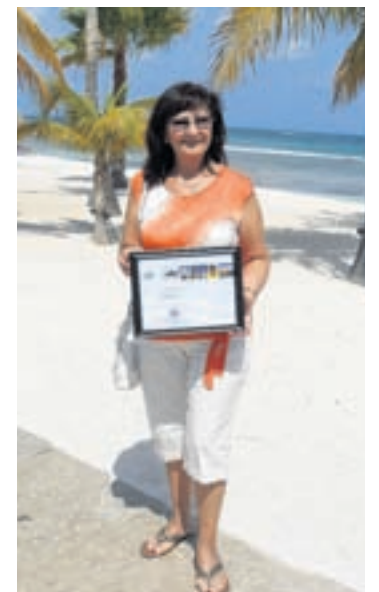
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**PALM BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Good Will. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Ar-







In this May 2, 2014 file photo, Richard Dent is introduced before the inaugural Pro Football Hall of Fame Fan Fest at the International Exposition Center in Cleveland.

Associated Press

## Former American football players sue league

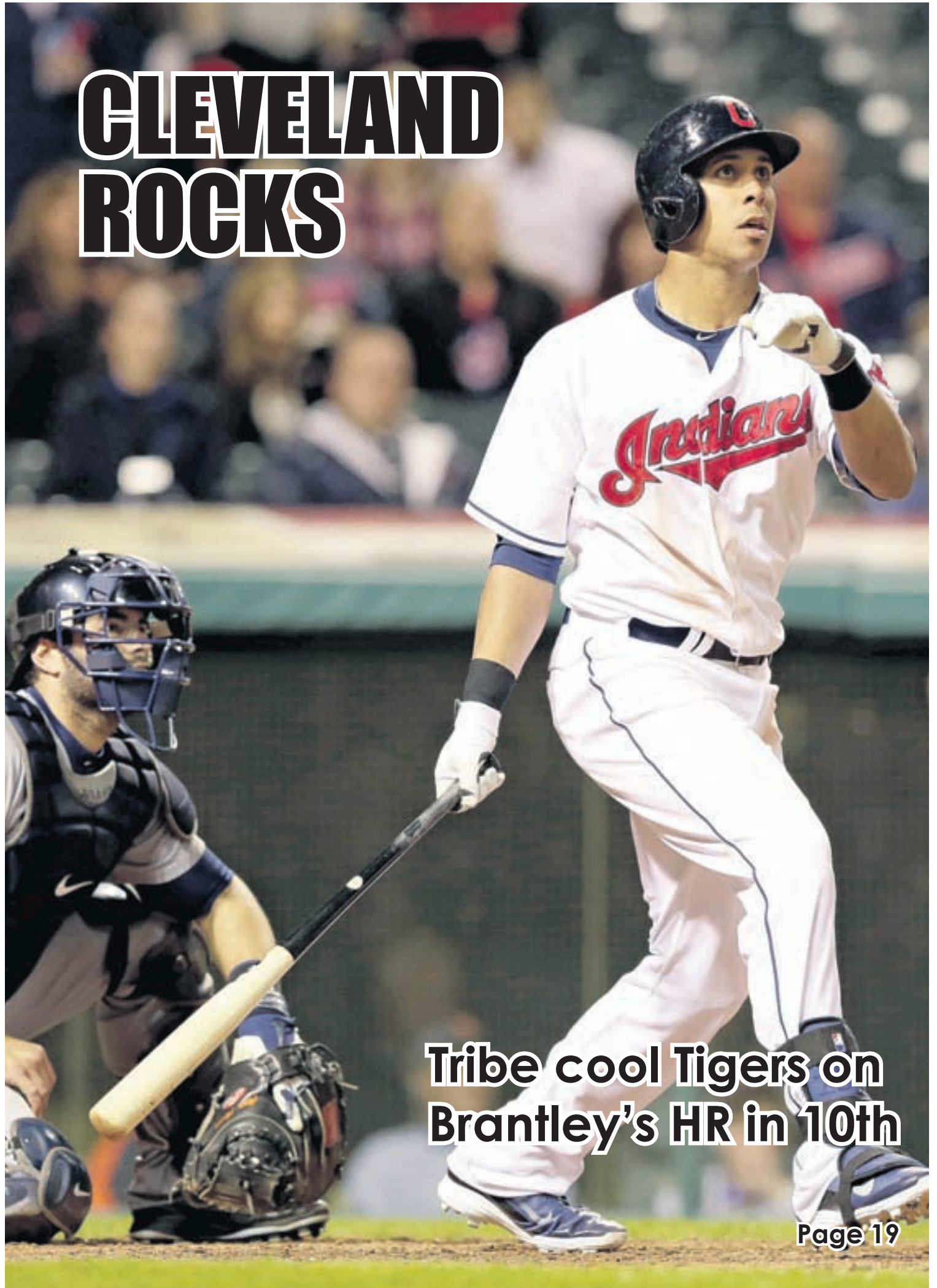
BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A group of retired American football players accused the league in a lawsuit Tuesday of cynically supplying them with powerful painkillers that kept them in the game but led to serious complications down the road.

The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages, charges the National Football League with chasing profits over protecting its players' health. To speed injured athletes' return to the field, the league administered drugs illegally, without obtaining prescriptions or warning of the possible side effects, the plaintiffs contend. The case comes less than a year after the NFL agreed to pay \$765 million to settle lawsuits from thousands of retired players who accused it of concealing the risks of concussions. The athletes blamed dementia and other health problems on the bone-crushing hits that helped lift pro football to new heights of popularity.

*Continued on Page 21*



## Tribe cool Tigers on Brantley's HR in 10th

Page 19

Cleveland Indians' Michael Brantley watches his ball after hitting a game-winning solo home run off Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Al Alburquerque in the tenth inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 19, 2014, in Cleveland. Tigers catcher Alex Avila watches. The Indians won 5-4 in ten innings.

Associated Press



# Rangers upend Canadiens 3-1, take 2-0 lead

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Henrik Lundqvist made 40 saves as the New York Rangers took control of the Eastern Conference final with a 3-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Monday.

The Rangers lead the best-of-seven Eastern Conference final 2-0 heading back to New York for Game 3 and 4.

The Canadiens, missing star goalie Carey Price because of an injury, came out strong in a bid get past a 7-2 thumping in the series opener only to run into the Lundqvist.

"I thought we played well, and the only reason we lost was Lundqvist," Montreal coach Michel Therrien said. "He stole that game."

The goalie who was beaten by Price at the Sochi Olympics as Canada beat Sweden in the final has allowed only three goals on 63 shots in the series.

The Canadiens got the opening goal at 6:14 of the first from Max Pacioretty, but Ryan McDonagh tied it 17 seconds later on a shot that went in off defenseman Josh Gorges and a post.

"We put ourselves in a tough spot there by not getting pucks out," Lundqvist said. "They were all over us. But to tie it up quickly like that, I think that was important to even out the momentum a little bit." Rick Nash and Martin St. Louis also scored on Dustin



**New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30) is up ended by Montreal Canadiens right wing Brendan Gallagher (11) and Rangers left wing Rick Nash (61) during first period in game two of the NHL Eastern Conference final Stanley Cup playoff action Monday, May 19, 2014 in Montreal.**

**Associated Press**

Tokarski, the surprise starter for Montreal ahead of regular backup Peter Budaj.

Tokarski looked shaky at times, but had no chance on two of the three Rangers goals.

The Canadiens had announced Monday morning that Price, the Olympic gold medalist who hurt his right knee in the series opener, would miss the rest of the series.

They hope to have him back if they reach the Stanley Cup final, but their situation looks difficult heading to New York.

Therrien said he opted for

Tokarski over Budaj because of the youngster's record of winning championships at other levels.

The 24-year-old from Humboldt, Saskatchewan, has a Memorial Cup, a world junior championship and an AHL title on his resume.

"He's a winner," Therrien said. "I thought he played well. We talked to Peter and he reacted as a pro. He's a good teammate."

Montreal outshot New York 41-30 but its worst fears were realized in the first period, which it dominated while still falling behind 2-1.

A long period of sustained

pressure produced the first goal as Lundqvist's clearing attempt went off Pacioretty and into the net at 6:14. But only 17 seconds later, McDonagh swiped a puck toward the net from the point and saw it go in off Gorges' leg and a post. McDonagh had a goal and an assist to give the defenseman six points in the opening two games of the series.

"The Canadiens were coming wave after wave in the first period," St. Louis said. "If it wasn't for Lundqvist, there might have been a different result after the first.

"He gave us time to find our legs. The goal by Mac was a big one. It calmed everyone down and allowed us to regroup."

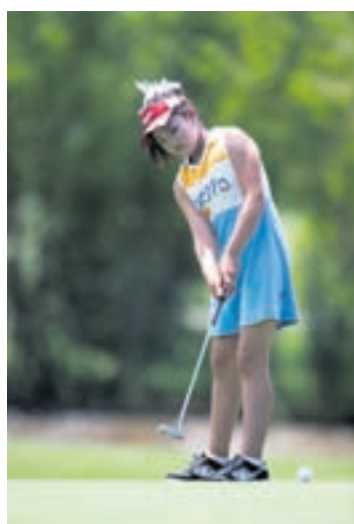
The crowd was booing Kreider when he sent a pass across to the right side and Nash's one-time went in off the midsection of Tokarski, who was late getting across. It was the second goal in as many games and second of the playoffs for Nash.

Tokarski had no chance as St. Louis wired a shot from the slot on a power play inside the post at 8:03 of the middle period.

The Rangers played a thorough defensive game in the third to prevent a comeback.

St. Louis scored a day after he and his teammates attended the funeral of his mother, who died just before Mother's Day. The Rangers have rallied around the grieving veteran and have won five in a row since her death.

"It's been an emotional weekend," St. Louis said. "I'll definitely never forget this weekend for many reasons, but I think the grieving process will still take a while. "But that stuff is behind me. Tonight, we wanted to make sure we'd have the emotion we'd need to win this game because we knew they would come out hard, especially rallying, losing their best player, so I thought we answered." □



**This June 18, 2013 photo provided by the USGA shows Lucy Li putting on the 10th hole at the 2013 U.S. Women's Public Links golf event in Norman, Okla.**

**Associated Press**

## Lucy Li, 11, youngest qualifier for Women's Open

**AP Golf Writer**

Lucy Li has become the youngest player to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open by winning the sectional qualifier at Half Moon Bay in California.

The 11-year-old Li shot rounds of 74-68 on the par-72 Old Course on Monday. She will surpass Lexi Thompson as the youngest qualifier in the U.S. Women's Open, which is June 19-22 at Pinehurst No. 2. Thompson was 12 in the 2007 Open.

Beverly Klass played the 1967 Open when she was 10. There was no qualifying.

Li, of Redwood Shores, California, already has a big win on her resume. She captured the girls 10-11 division at the inaugural Drive, Chip and Putt contest at Augusta that preceded the Masters this year. She beat second-place qualifier Kathleen Scavo by seven strokes at Half Moon Bay. Judy Rankin was a 14-year-old prodigy from Missouri when she entered the 1959 U.S. Women's Open at Churchill Valley Country Club in Pittsburgh.

"When I went to register, they asked me if I was registering for my mother,"

Rankin said Tuesday. "I remember the first tee was way up high. I was shaking. I was so scared, so nervous. I thought I could fall off. I didn't even make the cut. I was probably ill-prepared to be playing. But the next year, I was low amateur." Teenagers in the U.S. Women's Open are nothing new.

Morgan Pressel, who went on to become the youngest major champion in LPGA Tour history at 18, qualified for the U.S. Women's Open in 2001 when she 12. Michelle Wie was 12 when she qualified for her

first LPGA Tour event, and she was in the final group at a major when she was 13.

Lydia Ko was 15 when she won the Canadian Women's Open two years ago, making her the youngest winner in LPGA history. Now she's in range of becoming No. 1 in the world.

In men's golf, Matteo Manassero won twice on the European Tour before he had his driver's license. Ryo Ishikawa won his first professional tournament when he was 15. Jordan Spieth nearly won the Masters last month at age 20. □



## NBA Roundup

# Duncan helps Spurs rout Thunder in series opener



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan, left, shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant (35) during the first half of Game 1 of a Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, May 19, 2014, in San Antonio. Associated Press

**RAUL DOMINGUEZ**

**Associated Press**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — The San Antonio Spurs were planning to attack the lane whether Oklahoma City big man Serge Ibaka was playing or not. The fact that the Thunder's athletic defender was absent only made things easier for them.

Tim Duncan scored 27 points as San Antonio took advantage of Ibaka's absence to dominate the paint, beating the Oklahoma City 122-105 on Monday night in the opener of the Western Conference finals.

Tony Parker did not appear limited by a hamstring injury, scoring 14 points and having 12 assists in 36 minutes.

The Thunder got their usual offensive outputs from All-Stars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, who scored 28 and 25 points respectively. But Oklahoma City's remaining starters, Nick Collison, Thabo Sefolosha and Kendrick Perkins, combined to score five points with 13 rebounds and one

assist.

But it was defensively where the Thunder struggled without Ibaka, who will miss the remainder of the postseason after injuring his calf muscle in Oklahoma City's series clincher against the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Spurs had 66 points in the paint and shot 58 percent from the field. It was the highest shooting percentage allowed by the Thunder in the postseason since relocating from Seattle.

"We're a no-excuse team," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "Serge is out. He's not coming back. We have to play better. If we expect to beat one of the best teams in basketball, and a very good offensive team, we have to play and we're not going to make an excuse."

The Spurs fed Duncan early with Ibaka out, and the veteran responded by shooting 6 for 7 in scoring 12 points in the opening quarter.

Parker, who picked up a mild hamstring strain in San Antonio's series clincher

against Portland, drove the paint and dished to Duncan early before looking for his own shot midway through the quarter.

"That's part of our game plan," Duncan said. "He knew that they weren't going to let him shoot the ball like he did in the last series. They were going to try to take that away from him, so he knew he was going to have to be an assist man."

Parker scored all but two of his points in the first half as the Spurs beat the Thunder for the first time this season. Even though San Antonio improved to 7-1 at home in the playoffs, winning their past five games by an average of 20.6 points, Monday's victory was not easy. The Spurs also still remem-

ber what happened in the 2012 conference finals, when the Thunder won four straight to rally from an 0-2 deficit.

"It's great to have an appropriate fear," Parker said. "They played great against us in 2012, and we know that we have to be perfect. They're younger than us and more athletic, and so we have to be more perfect."

San Antonio played nearly perfectly offensively and still rallied to take a 76-75 lead on Westbrook's 17-foot jumper with 5 minutes left in the third quarter.

"We don't believe in moral victories," Durant said. "Third quarter was obviously our best quarter, but we didn't close it out well. It's Game 1, we've got to

make adjustments and be better for the next game. We're not taking no moral victories out of it."

Despite missing his first four shots, Westbrook continued to bull his way into the lane and it paid off as the game wore on.

Westbrook had 12 points in the third quarter, continually driving past Parker and the Spurs before they could settle in defensively. With the exception of a pair of free throws by Derek Fisher, Westbrook and Durant scored all of Oklahoma City's points in a 23-22 third quarter.

The extended efforts exerted by the Thunder's two All-Stars eventually took a toll, especially with the Spurs bench coming to life. □

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## Baseball Capsules

# Brantley's homer in the 10th beats Tigers 5-4

**The Associated Press**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Michael Brantley homered with two outs in the 10th inning off Al Alburquerque, giving the Cleveland Indians a 5-4 win over the drowsy Detroit Tigers on Monday night.

Brantley connected on a 3-2 pitch from Alburquerque (1-1), driving it into the Tigers' bullpen to end Cleveland's four-game losing streak.

Scott Atchison (1-0) pitched a perfect 10th, retiring Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez for the first two outs.

Detroit's J.D. Martinez hit a pinch-hit homer in the ninth to tie it 4-all, but the Tigers couldn't muster more magic in extra innings.

The Tigers, who arrived just three hours before the first pitch because of travel delays from Boston, had their 11-game road winning streak ended.

Rookie Jesus Aguilar had two RBIs for the Indians, outscored 30-6 while being swept by Oakland last weekend.

Martinez hit his 11th homer for the Tigers.

**WHITE SOX 7, ROYALS 6**

**KANSAS CITY (AP)** — Alexei Ramirez homered and drove in four runs as Chicago climbed out of a five-run hole before holding on for a wild win over Kansas City.

Zach Putnam (2-0) worked two shutout innings in relief of Scott Carroll, and Ronald Belisario also threw two scoreless innings before Scott Downs and Jake Petricka bailed out Matt Lindstrom.

Lindstrom, normally the White Sox closer, gave up a leadoff single to Nori Aoki in the ninth, then appeared to hurt his foot fielding a sacrifice bunt by Alcides Escobar that resulted in an error. Downs entered and struck out Eric Hosmer, then Petricka picked off pinch-runner Jarrod Dyson at second base before getting Billy Butler on a groundout for his first save.

Jason Vargas (4-2) squandered the rare five-run lead the Royals' pop-gun offense gave him. He allowed all seven White Sox runs in 4 2-3 innings, his shortest outing of the season.

**ASTROS 5, ANGELS 2**

**ANAHEIM, California (AP)** — Dallas Keuchel came within one out of his second consecutive shutout as

Howie Kendrick followed with a two-run triple off Josh Zeid, who got C.J. Cron on a grounder to end the Angels' third loss in 11 games. Dexter Fowler and Chris Carter also drove in runs for the Astros (17-28), who still have the AL's worst record despite six wins in their last eight games.

**BRAVES 9, BREWERS 3**

vis homered for the Brewers, who have lost three straight. Braun also threw out a runner at the plate from right field.

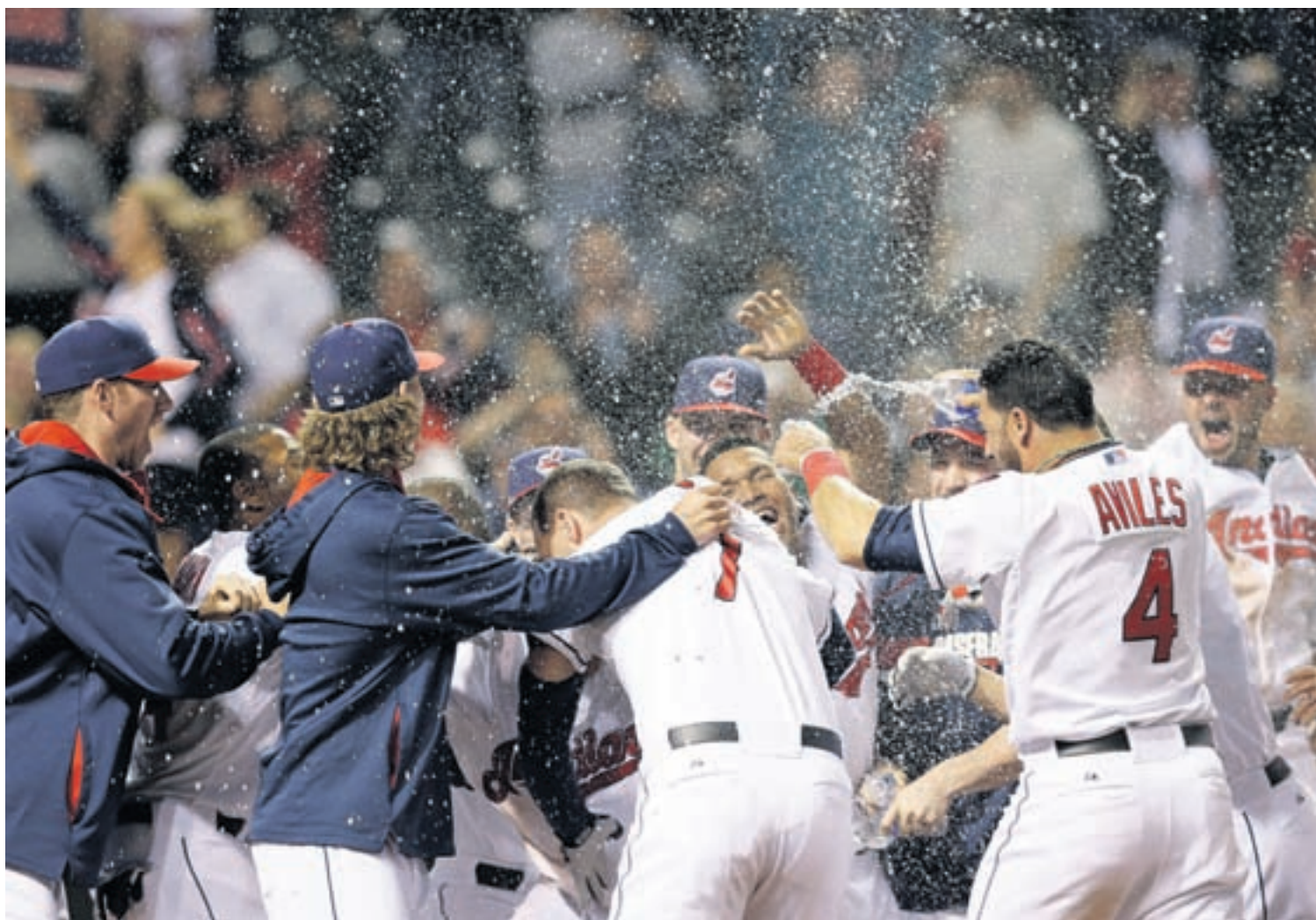
Wily Peralta (4-3) allowed nine hits and three runs — two earned — in five innings.

Brewers manager Ron Roenicke put in first baseman Lyle Overbay to pitch late

to Greg Dobbs in the bottom of the 15th before getting Danny Espinosa to fly out to deep right to end the 4-hour, 58-minute game.

The Reds' defense twice extended the game with two-out diving catches that prevented the winning run from scoring.

Phillips robbed Wilson Ramos behind second base



**The Cleveland Indians celebrate after Michael Brantley hit a game-winning solo home run off Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Al Alburquerque in the tenth inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 19, 2014, in Cleveland. The Indians won 5-4 in ten innings.**

**Associated Press**

Houston beat Los Angeles for its first three-game winning streak of the season. Jason Castro and Matt Dominguez drove in runs during a three-run first inning for the Astros, who got 10 hits off Garrett Richards (4-1) in the opener of a 10-game road trip.

Keuchel (5-2) followed up his first career shutout with another gem, yielding five hits and striking out eight. He didn't allow a runner past second base until the ninth, when manager Bo Porter pulled him after two-out infield singles by Mike Trout and Albert Pujols.

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Freddie Freeman and Justin Upton homered to help Mike Minor win his second consecutive start in Atlanta's victory over Milwaukee.

Pinch-hitter Ryan Doumit also went deep for the Braves in a matchup of first-place teams.

Atlanta began the night with the fewest runs in the majors. But the Braves banged out 15 hits and improved to 18-5 when hitting a home run.

Minor (2-2) gave up two runs and five hits with five strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings.

Ryan Braun and Khris Da-

vis homered for the Brewers, who have lost three straight. Braun also threw out a runner at the plate from right field.

**REDS 4, NATIONALS 3, 15 INNING**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Todd Frazier's two-run homer in the 15th inning lifted Cincinnati over Washington.

Brandon Phillips singled off Ross Detwiler (0-2) to open the inning and, with one out, Frazier homered to center. The drive ended a scoreless streak of 27 2-3 innings by the Nationals' bullpen.

Logan Ondrusek (1-2) worked two innings for the win, allowing an RBI single

with a runner on third to end the 11th. Billy Hamilton's diving grab in right-center of Anthony Rendon's liner sent the game to the 15th. Espinosa doubled off Aroldis Chapman to start the ninth and scored on a sacrifice fly by pinch-hitter Scott Hairston. That rally cost Reds starter Mike Leake his first win since April 15.

Stephen Strasburg went seven innings for Washington, allowing two runs and six hits.

The Reds were 2 for 24 with runners in scoring position, and the Nationals went 2 for 18. □





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## football players

Continued from Page 17

Some football players say they were never told they had broken legs or ankles and were instead fed pills to mask the pain. One says that instead of surgery, he was given anti-inflammatory drugs and excused from practices so he could play in games. Others say that after years of free pills from the NFL, they retired addicted to the painkillers. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, in Atlanta for the league's spring meetings, said, "Our attorneys have not seen the lawsuit and obviously I have been in meetings all day." The lawsuit names eight players as plaintiffs, including three members of the NFL champion 1985 Chicago Bears: quarterback Jim McMahon, star defensive end Richard Dent and offensive lineman Keith Van

Horne. More than 500 other former players have signed on to the lawsuit, according to lawyers, who are seeking class-action status for the case. Six of the plaintiffs also took part in the concussion-related litigation, including McMahon and Van Horne. McMahon says he suffered a broken neck and ankle during his career, but instead of sitting out, he received medication and was pushed back onto the field. Team doctors and trainers never told him about the injuries, according to the lawsuit. McMahon also became addicted to painkillers, at one point taking more than 100 Percocet pills per month, even in the off-season, the lawsuit says. Team doctors and trainers illegally administered the drugs, the lawsuit alleges, because they didn't get prescriptions, keep records or explain side effects. Van Horne played an entire season on a broken leg and wasn't told about the injury for five years, "during which time he was fed a



In this Oct. 7, 2011 file photo, President Barack Obama, left, looks towards quarterback Jim McMahon, wearing headband, as he honors the 1985 Super Bowl XX Champion Chicago Bears football team during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

constant diet of pills to deal with the pain," the lawsuit says. "The NFL knew of the debilitating effects of these drugs on all of its players

and callously ignored the players' long-term health in its obsession to return them to play," said Steven Silverman, an attorney for the

players. His Baltimore firm also represents former National Hockey League players in a concussion-related lawsuit. □



France's Nacer Bouhanni celebrates as he cuts the finish line to win the 10th stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Modena to Salso Maggiore, Italy, Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

Associated Press

**SALSOMAGGIORE TERME, Italy (AP)** — French rider Nacer Bouhanni timed another sprint to perfection to win his third stage in this year's Giro d'Italia, and Cadel Evans' overall lead remained unchanged after Tuesday's 10th leg.

Bouhanni clocked just over 4 hours on the mostly flat 173-kilometer (108-mile) route from Modena to Salsomaggiore Terme. Italian rider Giacomo Nizzolo finished second for his fourth podium finish of this year's race and Michael

## Bouhanni wins another Giro sprint; Evans leads

Matthews of Australia was third, both with the same time as Bouhanni. It was the eighth win this year and the 28th career victory for Bouhanni, who rides for the FDJ.fr team. "The speed was very high at the end. I took Nizzolo's wheel and was able to pass him," Bouhanni said of his burst to the line. "My goal is the points jersey." With Mark Cavendish skipping the Giro and with Marcel Kittel having withdrawn after winning the first two individual stages, Bouhanni doesn't have many rivals in the sprints capable of beating him.

"Cavendish is Cavendish and I'm Bouhanni," the stage winner said when asked who was faster, adding that he stays fit in the offseason by boxing. A crash in the final kilometer involved American sprinter Tyler Farrar. Belgian rider Yannick Eijssen, a teammate of Evans with BMC, was involved in a fall with about 20 kilometers (12 miles) to go and was put on a stretcher and taken away in an ambulance with a brace around his neck. Evans remained 57 seconds ahead of Colombian rival Rigoberto Uran in the

overall standings. Stage 11 Wednesday is a 249-kilometer (155-mile) leg from Collecchio to Savona with two minor climbs, including one shortly before the finish. Evans, the 37-year-old Australian who won the 2011 Tour de France, was looking ahead to Thursday's 41.9-kilometer (26-mile) individual time trial from Barbaresco to Barolo, which celebrates two of Italy's best-known wines. "I think it suits me better than most of my overall rivals," Evans said. The race ends in Trieste on June 1. □



# MERS in America: Is spread of virus a worry?

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP) --** A respiratory virus that has sickened hundreds in the Middle East has spread for the first time from one person to another in the United States. The case has raised questions about how much contact is needed to transmit the germ.

Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, has mostly spread before to health care workers or family members caring for a sick patient. The two men in the U.S. were together only in two business meetings.

But health officials say they don't find it alarming and that the risk of MERS to the general public remains low.

**Q: How many people have gotten sick in the U.S.?**

**A:** Two cases of MERS have been confirmed in travelers who came to the United States from Saudi Arabia, which has been at the center of the outbreak. The first was an American doctor, in his 60s, who lives and works in the capital Riyadh. Within days of arriving in Munster, Indiana, he was diagnosed with MERS and hospitalized. Officials have been testing anyone he was in close contact with after his arrival in late April.

**Q: Did he spread MERS to anyone?**

**A:** Yes, to a business associate, who didn't come down with MERS. The Illinois man probably picked up the virus during a 40-minute meeting the day after the doctor arrived; they met again the next day.

He briefly had cold-like symptoms but that could have been from a cold or allergy. So far, health officials say tests have been negative for six family members and 53 health care workers.

**A: If the Illinois man was infected, why didn't he get sick?**

**Q:** Not everyone who gets the virus gets sick. An early test didn't detect the

germ but a later blood test showed he had developed antibodies to fight an infection at some point. The man was reported to be feeling well, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The doctor who spread the virus has fully recovered. It's not known how he was infected but he worked in a hospital that treated MERS.

**Q: How infectious is it?**

**A:** It is not considered highly infectious. MERS does not spread as easily as the flu or some other diseases. Officials aren't sure how it is transmitted, but it is thought to be spread through sneezing and coughing. While the U.S. encounter may seem too casual, investigators say the Indiana doctor was feverish and not feeling well during the 40-minute meeting, in which they sat about 6 feet apart.

"It doesn't change our interpretation of who can get MERS from other people," said the CDC's Dr. David Swardlow.

**Q: Where did the MERS virus come from?**

**A:** Some scientists think the virus that causes MERS first spread to humans from camels, but research is ongoing to confirm its origins. The virus causes a respiratory illness that begins with flu-like fever and cough but can lead to shortness of breath, pneumonia and death. Since MERS first appeared two years ago, about 600 illnesses have been reported, including more than 170 deaths, most in Saudi Arabia.

**Q: What about the second traveler sick with MERS?**

**A:** The 44-year-old resident of Saudi Arabia has been discharged from an Orlando hospital, Florida officials said Monday. The man - also a doctor - fell ill while visiting Florida. All health care workers and family members with whom he had contact so far have tested negative. □



In this August 2013 photo provided by the family, Erica Steadman checks on her daughter Evelyn in the neonatal intensive care unit at the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital in Chicago, shortly after Evelyn's birth. Evelyn was born with brain damage due to a virus known as Cytomegalovirus, or CMV.

Associated Press

## Silent virus a dangerous, rare risk for the unborn

**LINDSEY TANNER**  
AP Medical Writer

**CHICAGO (AP) —** It's a common, usually harmless virus. But in a rare, unlucky set of circumstances, it can be devastating for infants whose mothers become infected during pregnancy. Brain damage, deafness and other birth defects are among potential problems when women inadvertently transmit the virus in the womb. Because those complications are so rare, most people have never heard of CMV — shorthand for cytomegalovirus.

Infectious disease specialists, parents of affected children and, now, some legislators, are trying to spread awareness about the virus.

Erica Steadman learned about CMV when her daughter Evelyn was born with a small head and probable brain damage last year. The baby is deaf and potentially faces developmental problems.

"It's pretty devastating to us. I did everything I was supposed to do when I was pregnant to make sure she was healthy and I didn't know about this one thing,"

said Steadman, who lives in Crete, Illinois, outside Chicago. "We have to face the consequences of that." CMV is related to germs that cause genital herpes, cold sores, and chickenpox. It spreads by exposure to body fluids from an infected person. Infections are usually silent but can also cause sore throats and fatigue.

However, the virus can be serious for people with weakened immune systems, including HIV-infected patients and organ transplant recipients. It can also interfere with prenatal brain growth.

The chances of getting infected while pregnant are small, and the chances of passing along the virus in utero are even smaller. Of about 4 million annual U.S. births, about 30,000 babies — less than 1 percent — are born with a CMV infection. About 5,000 of those babies will have CMV-related permanent problems.

The first law in the U.S. mandating a CMV awareness campaign took effect last July in Utah. It requires urine or saliva tests in newborns who fail already required

hearing tests. Studies suggest early treatment with anti-viral medicine may limit hearing loss and may benefit the child's development, too.

Lawmakers in Illinois and Connecticut introduced similar measures this year. These efforts signal "a very exciting potential shift" in thinking about congenital CMV, said Dr. Gail Demmler-Harrison, a CMV specialist at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. She's involved in trying to get similar legislation drafted in Texas.

Evidence indicates doctors don't often mention CMV to pregnant patients; that gap led to Utah's law. It was sponsored by state Rep. Ronda Menlove, whose 3-year-old granddaughter has CMV-caused deafness. The law has led to a new state health department Web page and pamphlets for doctors' offices.

About 50 Utah newborns have had CMV tests so far; nine tested positive, said Stephanie McVicar, director of newborn hearing screening for Utah's health department. □



# Swipe right for Ms. Right: The rise of dating apps

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — So, a lady walks into a bar...Wait, scratch that. A lady takes out her phone. With a left swipe of her finger she dismisses Alex, 25 and Robert, 48. She swipes right when a photo of James, 24, pops up. It's a match. James had swiped right too. They chat, and make plans to meet. They're only three miles apart, after all.

Welcome to the new world of dating. As the near-constant use of smartphones proliferates and as people grow more comfortable with disclosing their location, a new class of mobile dating applications is emerging that spans a range as broad as human desire itself. Millennials, busy with school, jobs and social lives, say the apps save time and let users filter out the undesirables, based on a few photos, words and Facebook connections. Unlike the dating websites of yore, with endless profiles to browse and lengthy messages to compose, newer apps offer a sense of immediacy and simplicity that in many ways harkens back to the good old days of just walking up to a pretty stranger and making small talk.

As with potential mates, there's an array to choose from.

In the U.S., online community ChristianMingle will "find God's match for you." Mobile application Hinge's promise hinges on its ability to hook you up with friends of friends. Coffee Meets Bagel, meanwhile, will present you with just one potential mate at noon every day. Dattch, with a Pinterest-like interface, is for women seeking women. For men looking for men, there's Grindr, Jack'd, Scruff, Boyahoy and many more. Revealr will let you hear a person's voice and only show photos if you're both interested.

The darling dating app du jour for Americans is Tinder, helped by its simple interface, a host of celebrity users and a popularity boost from Sochi Olympic



In this April 23, 2014 photo, Melissa Ellard poses showing her Hinge profile on her iPhone, in Foxborough, Mass. Associated Press

athletes who used it to hook up during the Winter Games.

Tinder, like many dating apps, requires people to log in using their Facebook profiles, which users say adds a certain level of trust. Facebook, after all, is built on knowing people's real identities. Your Tinder photos are your Facebook photos. Users can reject or accept potential mates with a left or right swipe of their finger. If both people swipe right on Tinder, the app flashes "It's a match!" and the pair can exchange messages.

Because messages can only come from a person you've "right-swiped," unwanted advances are filtered out. The system avoids one of the more vexing problems of older-generation dating websites, where users, especially women, can become inundated with messages from unwelcome suitors. They also offer a generation raised on Google and social media a chance to do background checks on potential mates.

"If you are in a bar and a guy comes to talk to you, you are immediately going to be freaked out and you don't want to talk to them because they are drunk," says Melissa Ellard, 23, who uses Hinge and says she wouldn't have gone on a

date in the past six months were it not for the app. "When you are using the app, you get to look at their picture and see background information. You get to decide whether you want to continue it or not. When I meet someone, I want to know everything about them before I go on a date with them."

While they are still new, dating apps — used for anything from one-night-stands to serious dating, and even finding new friends while traveling — are emerging as the use of older dating websites is moving into the mainstream. A recent Pew study found that some 9 percent of U.S. adults say they've used dating sites or mobile dating apps, up from

3 percent in 2008. Of those who are "single and looking," the number jumps to 38 percent, according to the 2013 survey. The crowd trends slightly younger, with the largest group of users between 25 and 44. Clearly, many people have grown comfortable with online dating just as they have with shopping, banking and booking travel over the Internet.

Cue the cries of "the lost art of courtship" and the "rise of hookup culture" from older generations, who harbor selective memories of the more analog hookup culture of their youth.

"There is a general digital fear," says Glenn Platt, professor of interactive media studies at Miami University. "People are happy to

giggle and watch Barney in 'How I Met Your Mother' hook up with people based on looks. But somehow taking that same behavior and placing it in a digital context has a stigma attached to it. Even though in that context you are more likely to get a better match, more information, a person's real name."

Even Facebook is getting in on the action, from a more platonic angle. Last month, the world's biggest online social network launched a feature called "nearby friends," which lets users see which of their Facebook friends are near them at any given moment.

Despite the growing acceptance, the online and app-based dating market is small. Research firm IBIS World estimates that the dating services industry will hit \$2.2 billion in revenue this year. Internet conglomerate IAC/InteractiveCorp has the biggest chunk of the market with a 27 percent share.

The New York company owns traditional dating sites such as OKCupid, Match.com and Chemistry.com, as well as Tinder. IAC has a market value of just \$5.2 billion, less than a third of Twitter's.

Jared Fliesler, general partner at the venture capital fund Matrix Partners, believes companies have only just begun to tap into people's willingness to "pay" to find love, a phenomenon that extends well beyond dating apps. □

## Jewish groups in Spain protest Twitter insults

**MADRID (AP)** — Jewish organizations in Spain have asked prosecutors to investigate some 18,000 allegedly anti-Semitic insults sent via Twitter following a weekend European basketball game. The complaints refer to tweets sent after Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Spain's Real Madrid.

The president of the Israel in Catalonia association, Ruben Novoa, says a complaint was filed Tuesday against five Twitter account users whose full names appeared on the messages. He said most names on the messages were believed to be false.

Novoa says that a recent

study by the Anti-Defamation League indicated Spain was one of the most anti-Semitic countries in the 28-nation European Union.

The formal complaint was made by a dozen Jewish groups and support organizations in the northeastern region of Catalonia and elsewhere in Spain. □



# Weak retail results drag Wall Street lower

**ALEX VEIGA**  
**AP Business Writer**

Retailers are used to throwing big sales. On Tuesday, it was investors who unloaded shares in several big retail chains, dragging down U.S. stocks and wiping out small gains from a day earlier.

Disappointing earnings

ing such widespread weak growth among retailers means many (investors) are extrapolating that to the rest of the year," said Kate Warne, an investment strategist at Edward Jones. Dick's Sporting Goods plunged 18 percent after its earnings and revenue fell short of what investors

Home Depot bucked the trend, even though its latest quarterly results fell short of Wall Street's expectations. The home improvement retailer said a key sales metric improved despite a slow start to the spring home-selling season. The company also raised its full-year earnings forecast.

kind of reassessing as to what they want to do with their investments," said JJ Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 12.25 points, or 0.7 percent, to close at 1,872.83. The index is up 1.3 percent for the year.

The Dow Jones industrial average slid 137.55 points, or 0.8 percent, to end at 16,374.31. The Nasdaq composite index dropped 28.92 points, or 0.7 percent, to finish at 4,096.89.

The Dow and Nasdaq remain down for 2014.

Small-company stocks fell more than the rest of the market as investors ditched higher-risk investments. The Russell 2000 index sank 16.53 points, or 1.5 percent, to 1,097.90, near a six-month low.

Bond prices rose, driving the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note down to 2.51 percent from 2.54 percent late Monday. Investors tend to buy bonds when they see a time of weakness in stocks overall. Nine of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index fell, led by telecommunications stocks. The only one that rose was utilities. Investors tend to favor that sector when they want to play it safe with low-risk stocks that pay steady dividends. A week after the S&P touched an all-time high, the market has mostly alternated between small gains and losses. The three major indexes finished higher for the second trading day in a row Monday. A light schedule of economic reports for much of this week heading into Memorial Day weekend is likely to thin trading as the weekend nears. □



The screen of the handheld device of trader Sal Suarino is reflected in his glasses, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks drifted between small gains and losses in early trading Monday in the wake of news on a possible merger between AT&T and DirecTV.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

from Staples, Dick's Sporting Goods, Urban Outfitters and others triggered the selling spree.

The downturn in retail stocks came in a slow week for economic news and ahead of the Memorial Day weekend, which contributed to lighter-than-usual trading volumes. The weakness stirred fresh concerns about the retail sector and the outlook for consumer spending in the U.S. "The fact that we're see-

were expecting. The stock fell \$9.56 to \$43.60. Staples dropped 13 percent after the office supply chain said its earnings fell sharply in the latest quarter. Staples slid \$1.68 to \$11.71.

Also reporting weak sales: Urban Outfitters and TJX, the parent company of T.J. Maxx, Marshalls and other stores. Urban Outfitters dropped \$3.19, or 8.8 percent, to \$32.98. TJX shed \$4.45, or 7.6 percent, to \$53.95.

Its stock climbed \$1.46, or 2 percent, to \$77.96.

U.S. index futures fell early Tuesday, before the opening of regular stock trading, as investors reacted to the dismal earnings results. The market opened lower and remained in the red the rest of the day. The selling accelerated around midday.

"It seems like this is more about taking some profits on stocks that have enjoyed some nice profits and

## Vodafone, under pressure in Europe, reports low sales

**MARK SCOTT**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

**LONDON** - Europe's financial woes continue to hurt Vodafone.

The British telecommunications giant - the world's second-largest mobile carrier by subscribers, behind China Mobile - on Tuesday reported weak sales for the 12 months through March 31, as the company faced continuing competition and tough regulatory oversight in its core European markets.

While Vodafone recently sold its stake in the U.S. carrier Verizon Wireless for \$130 billion to Verizon Communications, the British company said that its so-called global service revenue, which refers to sales from voice, data and messaging services, fell 4.3 percent, to 39.5 billion pounds (\$66.4 billion) for the 12 months ended March 31. Like many of its European competitors, like Deutsche Telekom of Germany and Telefónica of Spain, Vodafone is investing billions of dollars to upgrade its mobile network, as consumers increasingly use their smartphones to stream online data.

Vodafone also is part of a growing consolidation within the European telecom market, in which carriers have looked to secure cable and broadband assets to combine with their existing mobile and fixed-line offerings. Vodafone recently agreed to buy the Spanish cable company Ono for 7.2 billion euros (about \$9.9 billion) and acquired the German company Kabel Deutschland for 7.7 billion euros last year. "It has been a year of substantial strategic progress," Vodafone's chief executive, Vittorio Colao, said in a statement on Tuesday. "I am confident about the future of the business."

Shares in the British company fell 5.5 percent in London on Tuesday.

Including the sale of Verizon Wireless, Vodafone reported a net profit of 59.3 billion pounds in the 12 months ended March 31, compared with a profit of 413 million pounds for the same period during the previous year. □

## Oil down slightly ahead of US supply report

**The Associated Press**

The price of oil fell slightly ahead of the latest report on supplies in the U.S. Benchmark U.S. crude for June delivery fell 17 cents to close at \$102.44 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The more heavily-traded July contract gained 22 cents to \$102.33.

Brent crude, a benchmark for international oil, rose 32 cents to \$109.69 on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

Investors on Wednesday will be monitoring fresh information on U.S. stockpiles of crude and refined products.

Data for the week ending May 16 is expected to

show a decline of 300,000 barrels in crude oil stocks and an increase of 150,000 barrels in gasoline stocks, according to a survey of analysts by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

At the gas pump, the average price of a gallon of gasoline fell 1 cent to \$3.64. That's down 3 cents

from a month ago and 1 penny cheaper than at this time last year.

In other energy futures trading in New York:

— Wholesale gasoline was flat at \$2.96 a gallon.

— Natural gas added 8 cents to \$4.55 per 1,000 cubic feet.

— Heating oil rose 1 cent to \$2.95 a gallon. □



## Target fires president of its Canadian operations

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Target has fired the president of its troubled Canadian operations, Tony Fisher, and is replacing him with a 15-year U.S. company veteran.

The executive shakeup in Canada comes two weeks after the abrupt resignation of Target's CEO and Chairman Gregg Steinhafel.

The third-largest U.S. retailer announced Tuesday that Mark Schindele, 45, who was senior vice president of merchandising operations, will now run the Canadian operation. Target's expansion into Canada last year marked its first foray outside the U.S. but it has struggled with weak sales and losses. The changes are effective immediately.

Schindele has played a key role in launching new store format including an expanded grocery area, as well as Target Express and CityTarget in the U.S. He has also led a global team and provided senior-level oversight to Target's merchandising operations, including systems, global sourcing and product development. Schindele will report to Kathee Tesija, chief merchandising and supply chain officer, whose responsibilities include Target Canada.

Target, based in Minneapolis, also said that it will be naming a nonexecutive chair in Canada. In its newly created advisory role, the chair will provide counsel and support to the president of Target Canada to ensure all strategies and tactics align with the Canadian marketplace.

The company also announced the promotions of three senior merchandising executives in its U.S. division as it tries to be more nimble in bringing in trendy products into stores more quickly.

Target is trying to fix its flailing operations in Canada, its first foray outside the U.S., while revitalizing business in the U.S. It's also trying to recover from a massive data breach in the U.S. that has

cost it customer trust.

The botched Canadian expansion and the data breach were the two main factors behind Steinhafel's departure. Target's Chief Financial Officer John Mulligan is serving as interim CEO as Target searches for a new leader. Steinhafel agreed to serve as an adviser during the transition.

Under the leadership of Fisher, 38, the company opened more than 100 stores north of the border. But shoppers have complained that prices are too high, and the Canadian stores have been wrestling with inventory problems. Fisher had been a company veteran for 15 years.

As a result, sales have been weak, and the company's Canadian operations recorded a loss of \$941 million in its first year, shaving off \$1.13 per share from the company's results.

While both Fisher and Schindele are from the U.S., 90 percent of the team working in the Canadian operations are Canadian, Target said.

"We are grateful to Tony for leading Target's first international launch," Mulligan said in a statement. "One of our key priorities is improving performance in Canada more rapidly, and we believe it is important to be aggressive."

"Mark's broad understanding of the retail industry and his record of leading global operations will help accelerate efforts to drive improvements across our Canadian business."

Dustee Jenkins, a Target spokeswoman, said Schindele will move to Toronto and will focus on inventory, operations and improving the guest experience.

In the U.S., Target said, Trish Adams has been promoted to executive vice president, apparel and home, while Jose Barra has been promoted to executive vice president, essentials and hardlines. Keri Jones has been promoted to executive vice president, merchandising planning and operations. □

## On Pfizer offer: AstraZeneca shareholder urges rethink

**LONDON (AP)** — AstraZeneca shareholder Schroders has urged the pharmaceutical firm to reconsider its rejection of a takeover offer from U.S. drugmaker Pfizer. The fund manager, which holds a 2 percent stake in AstraZeneca, is the biggest shareholder to call publicly for renewed takeover talks.

Schroders said Tuesday it "notes with disappointment the quick rejection by the AstraZeneca board of the latest offer from Pfizer." It urged AstraZeneca management "to recommence their engagement with Pfizer, and subsequently their shareholders." The board of AstraZeneca this week

rejected an improved \$119 billion takeover offer from Pfizer, saying it significantly undervalued the company and its drug portfolio. Under British takeover rules Pfizer has until Monday to submit a new offer, but it has said it won't raise its offer again or launch a hostile takeover bid. □



A truck pulls out of the parking lot at a Home Depot store in Oklahoma City. Home Depot Inc. reported mixed quarterly earnings on Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

## Home Depot 1Q results miss expectations

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Home Depot's fiscal first-quarter net income climbed 12 percent, helped by better sales,

but results fell short of expectations as a cold and rainy spring hurt results.

The company said May sales were "robust" and the No. 1 home improvement retailer raised its full-year earnings forecast. Shares rose almost 2 percent in morning trading.

Spring is the biggest season for home improvement retailers as homeowners and others work on their yards and gardens.

Meanwhile, the U.S. housing market has emerged from a deep slump, aided by rising home prices, steady job growth and fewer troubled loans dating back to the housing-bubble days. While the housing market has recently struggled to maintain that momentum, many home owners are

spending more to renovate their homes.

"The first quarter was impacted by a slow start to the spring selling season. But we had solid results in non-weather impacted markets and expect our sales for the year to grow in line with the guidance we previously provided," said CEO Frank Blake.

The Atlanta-based retailer earned \$1.38 billion, or \$1 per share, for the three months ended May 4. That compares with \$1.23 billion, or 83 cents per share, a year earlier.

The latest quarter's results included a benefit of 4 cents per share related to the sale of part of its equity ownership in HD Supply Holdings Inc.

Stripping out the benefit, earnings amounted to 96 cents per share.

Analysts, on average, expected earnings of 99 cents per share, according

to a FactSet survey.

Revenue for the Atlanta company rose 3 percent to \$19.69 billion, but missed Wall Street's estimate of \$19.97 billion.

Sales at U.S. stores open at least a year increased 3.3 percent. For the entire company, the metric rose 2.6 percent.

These figures are a key indicator of a retailer's health. They exclude results from locations recently opened or closed.

Home Depot now foresees fiscal 2014 earnings of \$4.42 per share.

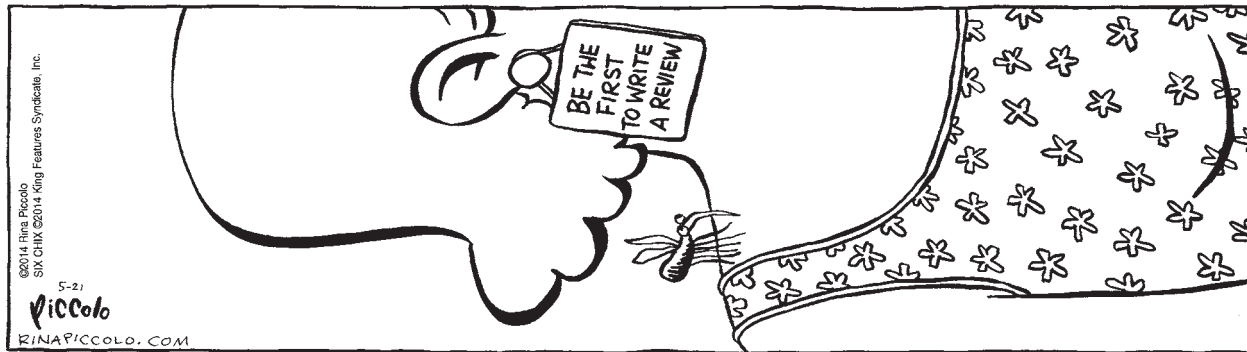
Its prior guidance was for earnings of \$4.38 per share. Analysts expect full-year earnings of \$4.41 per share. The chain reaffirmed its outlook for 2014 revenue to rise by about 4.8 percent. Based on 2013's revenue of \$78.81 billion, this implies approximately \$82.6 billion. Wall Street expects revenue of \$82.62 billion. □



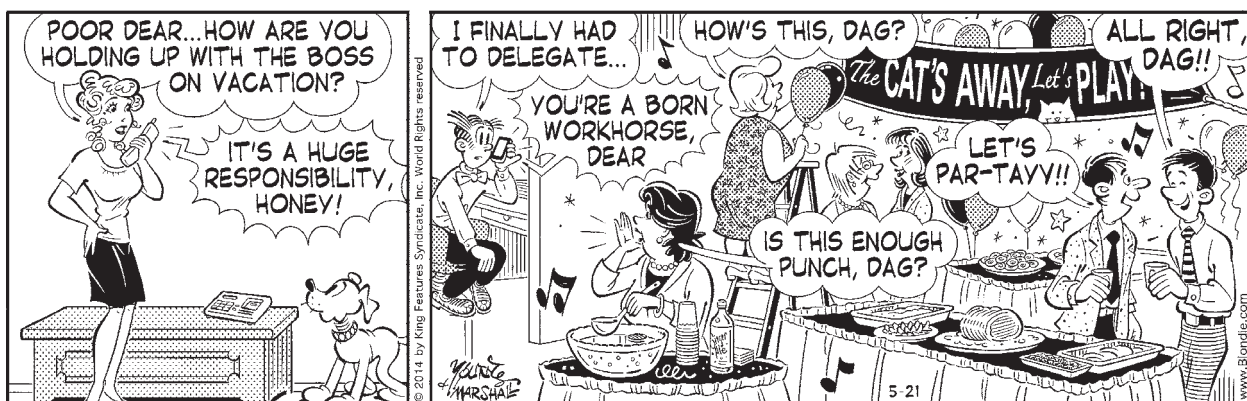
## Mutts



6 Chix



## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	1	5				6	7	
4			8		6			9
3			9					5
7			4					3
	6	3				7	9	
5			7					2
8			6					1
6			3		8			7
	2	9				8	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/21

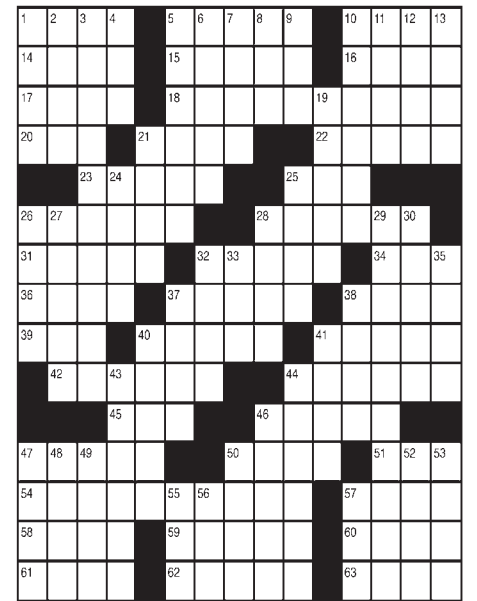
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	5	2	4	7	1	3	6	8
1	6	7	5	3	8	9	4	2
4	8	3	2	6	9	1	7	5
7	1	6	8	5	4	2	3	9
5	4	8	3	9	2	6	1	7
3	2	9	7	1	6	5	8	4
8	9	4	6	2	3	7	5	1
2	3	5	1	4	7	8	9	6
6	7	1	9	8	5	4	2	3

## ACROSS

- Uncertain
  - Actor Romero
  - "Get lost!"
  - Mah-jongg piece
  - South-of-the-border friend
  - Well-; rich
  - Large family group
  - Meat shunner
  - Skirt's edge
  - Plant with fronds
  - Like tropical weather
  - Tiny fruit
  - Silken sash
  - Untie
  - Satisfy a thirst
  - Cairo's nation
  - Sulking
  - Shoot carefully
  - Ravel at the edge
  - Apostle who betrayed Jesus
  - City slicker on a ranch
  - Reasonable bedtime
  - about; discuss lightly
  - Casts a ballot
  - Like a twinkling night sky
  - Enjoy greatly
  - Hydrogen or oxygen
  - Slogan
  - Obama's VP
  - Mediocre
  - Prefix for fat or sense
  - Indirect
  - Boy or man
  - Floored
  - Stop
  - Region
  - Facts & figures
  - Narrow candle
  - Liquid-filled sac in the body
- ## DOWN
- Poison ivy symptom



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/21/14

## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

LAPS	SPACE	ARCH
ABLE	CIDER	SURE
DUET	ATONE	PEAR
STATELY	SCHISMS	
LED	OUTER	
ASTER	JRS	LIARS
TOED	BAA	DENZEL
IRA	CURTAIN	UFO
LESSEN	ONE	PREP
TREED	DRY	THERE
DALES	TEA	
SAFARIS	BENNETT	
KNIT	CIGAR	TRUE
IDLE	IRONS	OLES
DYES	TEPEE	MESS

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5/21/14

- Disturbs; jolts
- Nincompoop
- Put one's mark on cattle
- Refuse to allow
- Chairman's list
- List of members
- Small rodent
- Actor Garrett
- Des Moines, —
- Song for two
- Ivory or Dial
- Bullring cheers
- Shipshape
- Skit
- Actress Arthur
- Apple computer



# e-cigarettes

Continued from Page 7

What is more, he said, people who wanted e-cigarettes and found themselves put in a group that used, say, the patch, would just drop out.

"The medical model is great for cancer drugs, but it doesn't really work for this situation because there's nothing to stop participants in the patches group from just going out and buying an e-cigarette," West said. He said the database used for the study was financed by Cancer Research UK, a nonprofit group; England's Department of Health; and several large drug companies that make nicotine replacement therapy, including Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKlin,e and Johnson & Johnson. West, an e-cigarette optimist, said solid epidemiological evidence would not be available for at least several decades, while the need for policy decisions is now.

He calculated that more than 5,000 lives could be saved for every million smokers who switched to e-cigarettes, even if the devices carried significant health risks and people used them indefinitely after quitting real cigarettes. "Potentially millions of lives are at stake, and our job is to help policymakers to protect those lives," he said in an editorial that accompanied the study. The standard recommended practice for helping people quit is a prescribed medicine such as Chantix or a combination of nicotine patch and gum together with counseling from a trained professional. But even in England, where these options are widely advertised and nearly free, the majority of smokers rely on willpower or nicotine products bought from a store, and success rates are low. □

## FOR RENT

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## FOR SALE



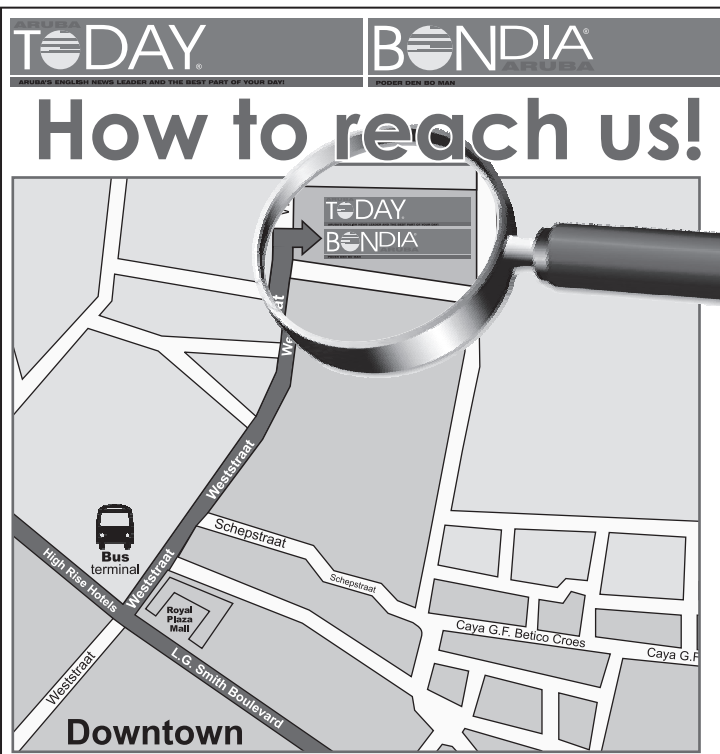
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This nice 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom ground floor apartment is located in the gated community called Palma Real. Located in the Palm Beach area. This community has 2 swimming pools, 24/7 security and lovely landscaping. This unit is located across from the pool and has a small private back patio.

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# 'Lost' snake species found on Mexican island

**MARK STEVENSON**

**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — A

species of snake that had been "lost" for almost 80 years has been re-discovered on a remote Mexican island.

According to a study published in the PLOS ONE scientific journal, the Clarion nightsnake was found again on one of the Revillagigedo Islands, more than 400 miles (650 kilometers) off Mexico's Pacific coast.

The original, and until recently the only, spotting of the species was made by American naturalist William Beebe in a 1936 visit to Clarion, one of the four Revillagigedo Islands. He returned with one snake preserved in a glass jar.

Subsequent visits failed to find more nightsnakes, and no further sightings were reported



In this undated image released by Mexico's Ecology Institute (INECOL) on Tuesday May 20, 2014, a Clarion nightsnake slithers on the ground in the Revillagigedo Islands, over 400 miles off Mexico's Pacific coast.

over the years from the island, which is inhabited only by a small detachment of Mexican marines. The existing dead sample was assumed to be a labelling

error and the snake was largely struck from taxonomic registries.

But Daniel Mulcahy, a researcher for the National Museum of Natural History in Washington,

suspected it might still exist. He and Juan Martinez Gomez of Mexico's Ecology Institute set out to find it.

Martinez Gomez, an expert on the Revillagigedo Islands, noted the islands change a lot from season to season, so they timed the expedition last May to replicate Beebe's steps as they looked for the snake, which blends in with the island's rock formations and is largely active at night. And they used Beebe's original field notes as a guide.

"Basically, following those directions, we essentially put ourselves in his place," Martinez Gomez said.

One of his graduate students, Juan Alberto Cervantes, was the first to spot one of the snakes for the first time since

1936.

The researchers performed DNA analysis to establish the long, dark spotted snake as its own species and see where it had come from. The tests showed it is most closely related to snakes from Mexico's Sonora-Sinaloa coast more than 500 miles (800 kilometers) away. Martinez Gomez said the snake's ancestors may have made the trip from the mainland on a tree trunk felled by a storm and washed out to sea.

The National Museum of Natural History said Mulcahy "uncovered the controversy surrounding the inclusion of this snake in the scientific record, and found that it appears to be the only species ever to be discarded due to a presumed locality error."

Patricia Escalante, a biologist who curates bird collections at Mexico's National Autonomous University and who was not involved in the snake project, said the re-discovery of the Clarion nightsnake was "very interesting" and significant because of the fragility of island ecosystems.

One inhabitant of the Revillagigedo Islands, the Socorro dove, went extinct in its natural habitat sometime in the 1970s. But live specimens had been taken off the islands in the 1920s, and their descendants were recently re-introduced to the islands. □

## Another month, another heat record tied for globe

**SETH BORENSTEIN**

**AP Science Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Once again, the world hit record heat levels. The average global temperature last month tied the hottest April on record four years

ago.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Tuesday say last month's average temperature was 58.1 degrees Fahrenheit (14.5 degrees Celsius). That was 1.39 de-

grees F (0.77 C) warmer than the average last century.

The last time the globe's monthly temperature was cooler than normal was February 1985.

NOAA scientist Jessica Blunden said April's heat was driven especially by Siberia and Eurasia. She said the United States and Canada were the few exceptions. Canada was a bit cooler than normal and the United States was a bit warmer than normal. □

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# Police: Actor told police he shot wife in Los Angeles

**TAMI ABDOLLAH**  
**ANTHONY MCCARTNEY**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Actor Michael Jace, who played a police officer on television, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of fatally shooting his wife after calling emergency services and telling an operator that he shot her, police said. Detectives were investigating whether the couple's financial or other marital difficulties might have played a role in the killing. Jace, who appeared on the hit FX series "The Shield," was being held on \$1 million bail after being accused of shooting his wife multiple times on Monday night during an argument in their home in the quiet, modest Hyde Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Los Angeles police Detective Dean Vinluan said a printout of the incident history indicated that Jace called emergency services and told the operator that he shot his wife. The couple's two sons, both under 10, were at home at the time, although police were unsure if they witnessed the argument or gunfire. The body of April Jace, 40, was found with multiple

gunshot wounds in a hallway of the home, and police recovered a handgun believed to belong to her husband, Vinluan said. "She came home with the kids and then the dispute happened and the shooting happened," Vinluan said. Michael Jace was seen walking out of the home when officers arrived around 8:30 p.m. He was detained and later arrested. "We don't know if he came out of fear or was trying to get out of there," Vinluan said. Detectives intend to review multiple emergency calls placed after the shooting to determine what had happened before Jace is formally charged. Vinluan said there had been no previous reports of domestic violence at the home. The actor had been under financial pressure in recent years. He declared for bankruptcy in 2011 and had been delinquent on payments as recently as December. Calls from The Associated Press seeking comment from Jace's agents at SMS Talent were not immediately returned.

Jace, 51, is best known for his role as LAPD Officer Julien Lowe in the TV series "The Shield." He also appeared on the show "Southland" and had small roles in the movies "Planet of the Apes," "Boogie Nights" and "Forrest Gump." Vinluan said the couple's sons are now with family. Next-door neighbor Shirley Harding said she heard at least three gunshots Monday night. She described Michael and April Jace as good, hands-on parents. "They were just lovely parents," Harding said. "I never heard arguments, I just heard happiness over there." April Jace had worked as a financial aid counselor at Biola University, a private Christian school, since March 2013. "April's radiant personality brought great energy to the financial aid office," Geoff Marsh, senior director of financial aid wrote in a statement. "Her love for helping students and families and her great work ethic earned the respect and love of her co-workers. Her smiling face and helpful spirit will be missed by all." Bankruptcy filings in 2011 stated that she had worked as a school teacher for the



In this Oct. 6, 2012 photo, actor Michael Jace attends WordTheatre presents Storytales at Ford Amphitheatre in Los Angeles. Associated Press

previous 10 years. Michael Jace's bankruptcy filing listed debts between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Much of the debt appeared to be related to his home, with an additional \$22,000 owed in state and federal income taxes. More than \$20,000 of his tax delinquency was owed to the state of California for the year 2008. He agreed to a payment plan, but had fallen behind as recently as December, records show. In a statement of his assets, Michael Jace checked a box indicating he didn't own any firearms. There are

no records of any criminal cases involving Michael Jace in Los Angeles. "The Shield" ended its seven-season run in 2008. Jace appeared in all but one episode, according to the Internet Movie Database site, IMDb.com. Jace consistently found work but remained mostly a bit player. "He's one of those people whose faces you'd recognize but you don't know their names," said veteran casting director Sheila Manning. "He's a solid actor. Nothing big, but he's a working actor." □

## Jolie talks Maleficent, mastectomy, kidnap victims

**MIKE CIDONI LENNOX**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Angelina Jolie may be Hollywood royalty. But she's no princess, and has never been a fan of the Disney variety. "I found them quite dull," the actress says. Evil Maleficent, whom Jolie portrays in Disney's new live-action spin on its animated classic "Sleeping Beauty," conversely "seemed to be having a great time," Jolie said. "(Maleficent) is kind of an anti-hero for the odd man out," Jolie continued. "And, when she feels abused, or when somebody hurts her, she then

says, 'Oh, all right. You're going to mess with me? Watch me.'" In a recent interview to promote "Maleficent," which opens May 30, the conversation veered to the celebrities at the Cannes film festival campaigning for the return of the Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by Islamic extremist group Boko Haram. "We need to go after (Boko Haram), arrest them, and they need to face justice," said Jolie, who is known for her worldwide humanitarian efforts. She added, however, that the media shouldn't be myopic, but instead continue to report on the array of world horrors, including the continuing plight of millions of refugees suffering in Syria. Last week marked the one-



This July 17 2012, photo, released by Disney shows Angelina Jolie in a scene from "Maleficent."

Associated Press

year anniversary of Jolie's disclosure that she was having a double mastectomy because she carries

a genetic mutation that greatly increases her risk of potentially fatal breast cancer. "(I'm) very happy that other women now know that they have that choice," she commented. Jolie's next film is her big-budget directorial debut, "Unbroken." Arriving this Christmas, it chronicles the life of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic runner who was taken prisoner by Japanese forces during World War II.

"It looks beautiful," Jolie said. "It's such a ... it's big," she added, with an exasperated laugh. "So, we're just trying to kind of wrestle it in to the best version of itself." □



# On TV and podcasts, Maron finds laughs and insight

**FRAZIER MOORE**

**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Marc Maron is one of the best interviewers you are likely to hear.

And along with his twice-weekly interview podcast, "WTF with Marc Maron," he headlines one of TV's funniest shows: the scripted comedy "Maron," whose second season is airing Thursdays (10 p.m. EDT) on IFC.

Maron launched the podcast five years ago. His 20-year career as a standup comic was in tatters and his personal life (that of a recovering alcoholic with two failed marriages) not much rosier.

"WTF" was born in his garage in a Los Angeles neighborhood no one would mistake for Bel-Air or Marina Del Rey. There he started interviewing fellow comedians, bringing empathy and insight to conversations about their common craft and particular struggles.

"WTF" caught on. Each month it is downloaded as many as 3 million times, and, closing in on its 500th episode, has drawn a show-biz who's-who to his garage for sessions that prove not only funny and illuminating but also serve as group therapy for Maron, guest and audience alike.



This image released by IFC shows Marc Maron from the scripted comedy "Maron," whose second season IFC airs Thursdays at 10 p.m. EDT.

**Associated Press**

"I started talking to people because I really needed help," he says, "and I think my interviewing style evolved from a deep need to connect with each of them for that hour."

"WTF" raised Maron's profile and gave his standup dates a shot in the arm.

Then, a year ago, "Maron" put him on display in a TV version of his life as a hapless comic with a podcast, neuroses, issues with women and a penchant for getting himself into jams.

The show was well-re-

ceived. But Maron cops to nervousness as he faced this season's 13 episodes, which he again co-wrote and co-executive produced as well as stars in.

"The first season was very personal, and I didn't know how much more I had: I don't live that big a life," he says. "Then I learned that if the fictional version is solid, you can build stories on it and make them feel true."

During the season, he buys a pricey "tube amp" sound system with perilous romantic consequences. He

bombs big-time as a guest on the AMC fan show "The Talking Dead." His dizzy mother (Sally Kellerman) lands for a visit.

The cast of "Maron" also includes Andy Kindler, Josh Brener, Dave Anthony and Judd Hirsch (as Marc's father), with numerous guest stars passing through.

"Maron" may seem kin to autobiographical comedies like Louis C.K.'s "Louie" and Larry David's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," but it remains true to itself and its singular protagonist.

And Maron, with little TV experience, rises to the occasion he had stopped hoping for.

"By the time this all happened," he says, "I'd given up any expectation of a TV project, and I didn't know how to do it. But I knew I was ready."

Joining a reporter in a New York hotel's dining room recently, he sports a work shirt and jeans and a WTF signet ring.

It is nearing cocktail hour, but the 50-year-old Maron (sober since 1999) orders a diet soda with his late lunch, then coffee.

An Albuquerque native whose formative idols range from Don Rickles and Buddy Hackett to Richard Pryor and George Carlin, he recalls how early on he set his sights on being a comedian.

He saw it as a different breed from other entertainers, an occupation "as important as a professor or a philosopher — someone trying to make sense of the world. I saw the stage as a way for me to process the (stuff) I have on my mind, where I could do whatever I wanted as long as I got a couple of laughs."

Maron doesn't string together jokes. He harvests ideas that take on an expository life of their own.

## Beyonce, Jay Z release starry fake movie trailer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Beyonce and Jay Z have released a trailer for a fake movie online with guns blazing, and now fans want to see the film actually made.

Fans launched a petition Monday on Change.org to support a feature-length version of "Run." The trailer that debuted Sunday stars the superstar couple as gun-toting outlaws. It features cameos by Sean Penn, Don Cheadle and Blake Lively.

The fake trailer concludes with the words "coming never."



This May 5, 2014 file photo shows Jay Z, left, and Beyonce at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating "Charles James: Beyond Fashion" in New York.

**Associated Press**

## Novelist Sam Greenlee dies in Chicago

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Poet and novelist Sam Greenlee has died in Chicago at the age of 83.

Greenlee was best known for his 1969 novel "The Spook Who Sat by the Door," later adapted into a political drama movie. Close friend and cast member in the movie, Pemon Rami, says Greenlee died early Monday.

Greenlee was one of the first African Americans to join the U.S. foreign service. From 1957-1965, he worked for the U.S. Information Agency, serving in Iraq, Pakistan, Indonesia and Greece.

"The Spook Who Sat by the Door" tells the story of



In this photo taken on Nov. 8, 1973, poet and novelist Sam Greenlee poses for a photo in Chicago.

**Associated Press**

a black CIA agent who becomes a revolutionary training young Chicago blacks for a violent rebellion. His other works include "Baghdad Blues," in which he describes witnessing the 1958 revolution that brought down Iraq's British-backed monarchy.



# Condi's Lesson



MAUREEN DOWD  
© 2014 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** - There has been much mockery of political correctness run amok on college campuses this spring, with knots of know-it-all students and teachers knifing their commencement speakers. The Times' Timothy Egan dubbed the protesters "commencement bigots," and The Wall Street Journal's Daniel Henninger christened the trend the "Bonfire of the Humanities" - a "ritualistic burning of college-commencement heretics."

The disinvasion list has been burgeoning. Brandeis University canceled human rights activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali, saying she'd made remarks critical of Islam. After protests about imperialism, Condoleezza Rice pulled out of her speech at Rutgers and Christine Lagarde, chief of the International Monetary Fund, said au revoir to Smith College.

This past week, liberal Haverford College shooed away Robert J. Birgeneau, the former chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, "the big bang of political correctness," as Henninger dryly noted, because Berkeley police had used "force" against Occupy protesters.

For a militaristic imperialist, Rice caved awfully easily. She should have invaded Rutgers, occupied the podium and said her piece about her failures on peace. And the students shouldn't have jumped the gun. After all, there was always a chance, a small one, admittedly, but a chance, that Condi Rice would have looked into her soul and told the story of what happens when you succumb to the temptation to sell it.

And that, dear graduates, family and friends, faculty and honored guests, would have been the most amazing and instructive commencement speech of all time. Rice always seemed to me a particularly sad part of the tragedies of Iraq and Afghanistan, and the lovely linchpin of the moral corrosion of W.'s presidency.

"What a falling off was there," as the ghost of Hamlet's father said of his compromised queen.

Condi had all the qualities required to dazzle. Smart, attractive, hard-working, personable, chic. She grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, in the 1960s, when segregationists bombed so much that the city became known as "Bombingham."

Yet she sailed to success at a young age. She could stand toe-to-heel on substance with world leaders. She could speak Russian

competently and talk sports expertly and play the piano and ice skate beautifully. She could authoritatively survey the troops in Wiesbaden in black leather knee-high stiletto boots and fashionably dominate a Washington banquet in a long, scarlet Oscar de la Renta gown.

Women everywhere, including my mom, were blown away by her, believing that she could be the first woman and the first black person to be president.

So how could someone named by her mother after the Italian musical notation *con dolcezza*, meaning "with sweetness," end up having such a sour effect on U.S. history? Rice was a star, but unfortunately, she cast herself in yet another production of "Faust" on the Potomac, uttering one of the most over-the-top lines of war spin ever: "We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud."

She excelled at failing better. As national security adviser for W., she ignored the intelligence report warning that Osama bin Laden was determined to strike inside the U.S. And she only learned about Hamas' shocking win in the Palestinian elections in 2006 when she was on her elliptical trainer watching the TV news crawl. After verifying it with State, she returned to exercising.

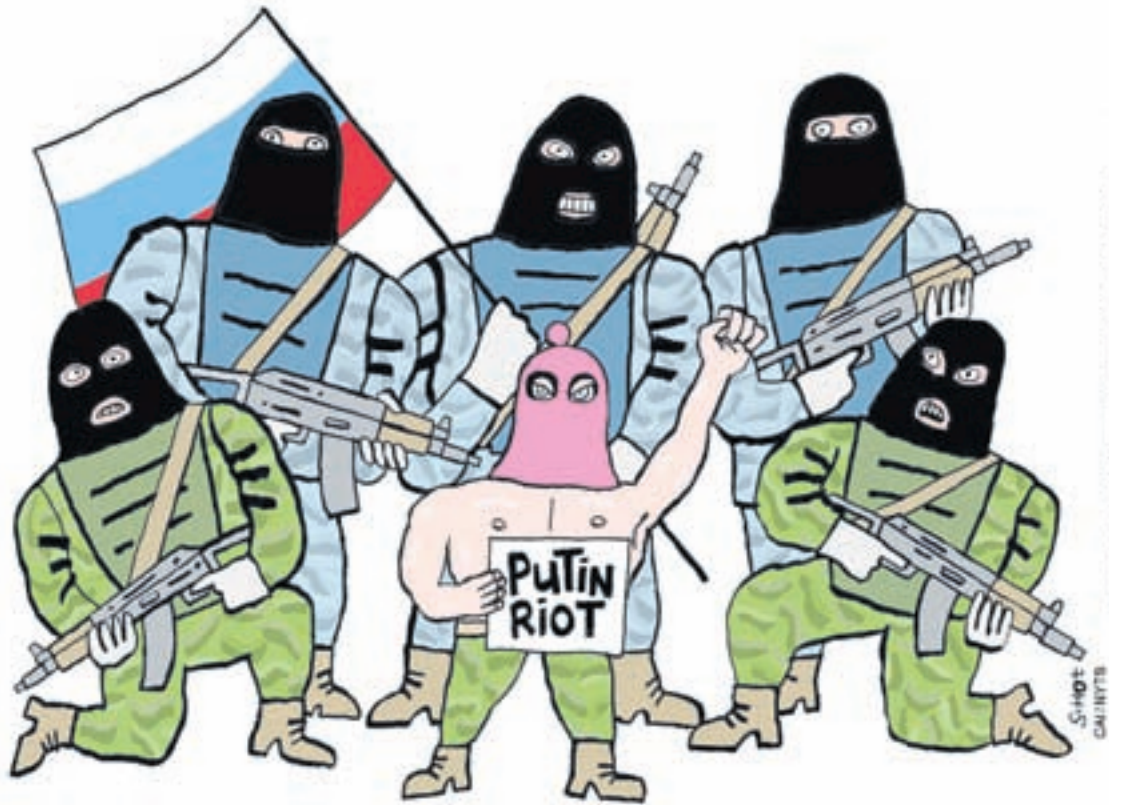
As Elisabeth Bumiller wrote in her trenchant biography of Rice, "Condoleezza Rice: An American Life": "It was obvious from Rice's many metamorphoses that her real ideology was not idealism or realism or defending the citadels of freedom, although she displayed elements of all of them. Her real ideology was succeeding."

And so, in order to succeed, she rejected her old mentors, Brent Scowcroft and Colin Powell, and went along with the preposterous pre-emption plan of the old hawks who had far less respect for her: Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld.

She knew that W. - eager to show he was not a wimp, the word *Newsweek* had once hung around his father's neck - was leaning toward kicking some Arabs around. So she ignored the red flags raised publicly by Scowcroft and privately by Powell and made her Faustian deal to sell a fake war.

We'll never know if she could have stopped W. from ruining his presidency and destroying so many lives when there was no national security stake.

We only know that when you sell your soul, it's not like a pawnshop. Condi thought she could reclaim it after she was secretary of state and bring W. back to the light of diplomacy and common sense. But, as Russell Baker once noted, she was trying to put the toothpaste back in the tube, spinning her wheels in the second term trying to undo the disasters of the first. What a wonderful lesson she could have taught those graduates about the perils of succeeding at any cost, about how moral shortcuts never lead to the right place. She should have said she was sorry about everything - except becoming one of the first two women permitted to join Augusta National. □



# Springtime for Bankers



PAUL KRUGMAN  
© 2014 New York Times

By any normal standard, economic policy since the onset of the financial crisis has been a dismal failure. It's true that we avoided a full replay of the Great Depression. But employment has taken more than six years to claw its way back to pre-crisis levels - years when we should have been adding millions of jobs just to keep up with a rising population. Long-term unemployment is still almost three times as high as it was in 2007; young people, often burdened by college debt, face a highly uncertain future.

Now Timothy Geithner, who was Treasury secretary for four of those six years, has published a book, "Stress Test," about his experiences. And basically, he thinks he did a heckuva job.

He's not unique in his self-appraisal. Policymakers in Europe, where employment has barely recovered at all and a number of countries are in fact experiencing Depression-level distress, have even less to boast about. Yet they too are patting themselves on the back.

How can people feel good about track records that are objectively so bad? Partly it's the normal human tendency to make excuses, to argue that you did the best you could under the circumstances. And Geithner can indeed blame much though not all of what went wrong on scorched-earth Republican obstructionism.

But there's also something else going on. In both Europe and America, economic policy has to a large extent been governed by the implicit slogan "Save the bankers, save the world" - that is, restore confidence in the financial system and prosperity will follow. And government actions have indeed restored financial confidence. Unfortunately, we're still waiting for the promised prosperity.

Much of Geithner's book is devoted to a defense of the U.S. financial bailout, which he sees as a huge success story - which it was, if financial confidence is viewed as an end in itself. Credit markets, which seized up after Lehman fell, mostly returned to normal during Geithner's first year in office. Stock indexes rebounded, and have hit records. Even subprime-backed securities - the infamous "toxic waste" that was poisoning the financial system - eventually regained a significant part of their value. Thanks to this financial recovery, bailing out Wall Street didn't even end up costing a lot of taxpayer money: resurgent banks were able to repay their loans, and the government was able to sell its equity stakes at a profit.

But where is the rebound in the real economy? Where are the jobs? Saving Wall Street, it seems, wasn't nearly enough. Why?

One reason for sluggish recovery is that U.S. policy "pivoted," far too early, from a focus on jobs to a focus on budget deficits. Geithner denies that he bears any responsibility for this pivot, declaring "I was not an austrian." In his version, the administration got all it could in the face of Republican opposition. That doesn't match independent reporting, which portrays Geithner ridiculing fiscal stimulus as "sugar" that would yield no long-term benefit.

But fiscal austerity wasn't the

only reason recovery has been so disappointing. Many analysts believe that the burden of high household debt, a legacy of the housing bubble, has been a big drag on the economy. And there was, arguably, a lot the Obama administration could have done to reduce debt burdens without congressional approval. But it didn't; it didn't even spend funds specifically allocated for that purpose. Why? According to many accounts, the biggest roadblock was Geithner's consistent opposition to mortgage debt relief - he was, if you like, all for bailing out banks but against bailing out families.

"Stress Test" asserts that no conceivable amount of mortgage debt relief could have done much to boost the economy. But the leading experts on this subject are the economists Atif Mian and Amir Sufi, whose just-published book "House of Debt" argues very much the contrary. On their blog, Mian and Sufi point out that Geithner's arithmetic on the issue seems weirdly wrong - order of magnitude wrong - giving much less weight to the role of debt in holding back spending than the consensus of economic research. And that doesn't even take into account the further benefits that would have flowed from a sharp reduction in foreclosures.

In the end, the story of economic policy since 2008 has been that of a remarkable double standard. Bad loans always involve mistakes on both sides - if borrowers were irresponsible, so were the people who lent them money. But when crisis came, bankers were held harmless for their errors while families paid full price.

And refusing to help families in debt, it turns out, wasn't just unfair; it was bad economics. Wall Street is back, but America isn't, and the double standard is the main reason. □



# Beyond Pretzel Logic: Refining American Bar Snacks

JEFF GORDINIER

© 2014 New York Times

For years, lingering at the bar came with a penance: a bowl of stale peanuts or soggy pretzels. Even if you didn't start out wanting to drown your sorrows, the food made you want to. Bar snacks were meant to lace your mouth with plenty of salt, leading you to reach more often for your thirst-slaking gimlet.

Deliciousness was not a priority.

But over the last decade or so, the elevation of the American cocktail has led to a corresponding gift to booze hounds everywhere: the refinement of the American bar snack. Influenced by the izakayas of Japan, the tapas counters of Spain, the gastro pubs of England and mixology trailblazers like PDT in the East Village, bar owners and restaurateurs

stream (with the drinking coaxing us to eat more, and the eating coaxing us to drink more) that a professional drinker could subsist for weeks on little more than croquettes and chicken wings, sliders and skewers and shishito peppers, and a seemingly endless deluge of deviled eggs. These days, deviled eggs are as de rigueur as artisanal bitters.

"There are some dishes that just become ubiquitous," said Mandy Oser, the owner of Ardesia, a gracious wine bar on West 52nd Street. "It becomes like a litmus test: 'What are you saying about yourself with your deviled eggs? Oh, you have a fried oyster on it?'"

The eggs at Ardesia, devised by the chef Amorette Casaus, happen to be garlanded with chicharrón and pickled jalapeño, but



**Cristina Bini makes cocktails near Italian meatballs and a salumi plate at Ciccio in New York, May 10, 2014. Over the last decade or so, the elevation of the American cocktail has led to a corresponding gift to booze hounds everywhere: the refinement of the American bar snack.**

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

El Colmado or Cata, Chinese at Fung Tu, British at the Shakespeare, and Korean at Hanjan. There are deep-fried anchovies and

king-duck shrine beneath RedFarm in the West Village.

At restaurants where a bar is central to the action, there's so much blurring between what qualifies as a snack and what qualifies as a proper menu item that everyone seems to have stopped fretting over it.

Consider the Gander, the chef Jesse Schenker's new spot on West 18th Street in Manhattan, where his finger-beckoning \$9 brisket tots have become such a category killer that he's going through 200 pounds of brisket each week and has hired two people in the kitchen who do nothing else but full-time tot duty.

Or consider Marc Forgione's namesake restaurant in Tribeca, where the chef figured out a way not to waste long, thin sheets of spud peelings: He morphs them into a giant curled chip that calls to mind Charles Bukowski's version of a Möbius strip. It comes with a smoked-onion rémoulade: chips and dip, supersized. "It looks like a python of potato," he said. Whether we're talking about the hot-dog threesome at Golden Cadillac, a bar in the East Village that does the hustle in the direction of "Charlie's Angels"-era kitsch, or the \$13 egg rolls engorged with cheesesteak and the \$12

chicken-and-waffle sliders at Pork Slope, in Brooklyn, saloon bites represent a place where pragmatism and playfulness converge.

"It makes sense," said Dale Talde, the chef behind Pork Slope. "If you're crafting great cocktails, the bar snacks have to keep up."

There's a reason the lounge at Le Bernardin offers a luxurious, \$45 croque-monsieur brimming with caviar. A great restaurant's mission must be self-evident even at the nibble level.

By now the bite has become such a signature trope of our times that Wylie Dufresne, the pioneering chef, opened up a restaurant devoted to them. At Alder, in the East Village, he and executive chef Jon Bignelli serve sleight-of-hand cocktail companions like chicken wings dusted with a powder that tastes like Caesar salad, and onion rings converted into a riff on French onion soup.

Ask nicely, and they'll put together a pu pu platter for you - a sweepingly salty/sweet/chewy/crunchy cavalcade of various snacks on the roster. If you're lucky, Dufresne may be hovering nearby. It turns out he's one of many New Yorkers with a fondness for dining at the bar.

And why not? As Dufresne put it, "The bar is a place of possibilities." □



**Kevin Denton, left, bar director, and Jon Bignelli, executive chef, clink glasses over a pu pu platter that features a crunchy, salty, sweet and chewy variety of snacks at Alder in New York, May 15, 2014.**

(Brent Herrig/The New York Times)

have brought a new level of care, craft and passion to something that used to be a negligible form of human nourishment. (Then again, it used to be free, too. Nowadays, even a cup of spiced nuts may set you back a few bucks.)

Throughout New York City, bar snacks have become such a booming revenue

these days you're just as apt to find them with green tahini, sea urchin, Sichuan peppercorns or a glaze of Thai fish sauce. But that's only the beginning. Bar snacks in New York have gone all "The World Is Flat" on us.

You can feast on Nordic treats at Torst or Aquavit, Spanish bites at La Vara or

chunks of hammer-pound Thai-style flank steak at Whiskey Soda Lounge, a nonna's version of true Italian meatballs at Ciccio, Kentucky Derby-worthy grits cakes crested with country ham at Maysville, and fish skins deep-fried by chef Joe Ng and transformed into piscine chips at Decoy, the bar and Pe-